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PRINCETON • NEW JERSEY



FROM THE LIBRARY OF
ROBERT ELLIOTT SPEER



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Various proposals were made to me by individuals and by a Com (for tracks and some others) regarding the use of my name as a candidate for Moderator. All these I refused and said that I could do nothing to promote such an idea and all I could do prevent and suppress it.

I sought to dissuade Joseph's Presbytery from electing me a Commissioner and would have returned the Commission but for evidence that this would lead to bad feeling in the Presbytery.

At the Assembly I refused to enter any Confession or to discuss the matter and I stated that I would not be a candidate and would refuse to allow the Assembly to consider my name if I was nominated and other and to be subject to a vote of the Assembly.

When actually against my Commission and against my protestations I was nominated and elected by acclamation and seemed to me to be my duty to serve and to do what I could to hold the Church together in unity.

All would well until the last Sunday afternoon when a heavy wind on the rocks. The matter is stated in my letter included in the book of P. H. Willson dated Jan 6, 1928

RCS

Rockledge Dec 13, 1937

Envelope marked "Personal"

Tioga Presbyterian Church

ORGANIZED 1859

Tioga and Sixteenth Streets

Philadelphia

5

SESSION

Bert R. Littell, D.D., Moderator
1531 W. Tioga Street

April 28, 1927.

Sutherland, Clerk
133 Witherspoon Bldg.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

H. Thomas, Treasurer
20 S. Sixth Street

I hope you will pardon me for writing you, but I feel moved by what I believe to be the most sincere motive.

lie Bauer

The rumor abroad as to your candidacy for the moderatorship of the Assembly, would be most gratifying to me under ordinary circumstances. My high regard for you and my sincere esteem covets for you the greatest honors which the Church has to confer. Your service to the Church and your great hearted interest in the cause of Missions, makes you more than worthy of the highest honor, and I believe no man in the Church would rejoice more in your promotion than I.

Barraclough

W. Bishop

Frutchey

R. Goodman

H. Henry

w M. Johnston

s D. Jones

H. Laird

S. J. McCutcheon

J. McCutcheon

Moore

s G. Pfeiffer

E. Stegeman

Stewart

d S. Weber

If it were possible for you to be elected by acclamation it would be a personal joy to me. I believe you stand as true and loyal to the doctrines held by our Church as any man.

However, we must face the fact, sad though it be, that there are two parties in the Church. As rumor comes to me from various quarters, your candidacy has been brought out and is being promoted by the liberal element in the Church. You would be known as the candidate of the Modernists. Ordinarily that would be a matter of personal concern. I assure you, that as far as I know, it is only because of the two elements in the Church that there would be any opposition to you. I have heard of no weighty objection on any other ground. But in your high position, many things, which of necessity, as Moderator, if elected, you would be required to do, would be misinterpreted and misjudged, though done from the purest motive. Consequently this would reflect back on you and on the Board, because of your position. This is my conviction, not as a member of the Board, but as your friend and a friend of the Board. I believe both you and the Board would suffer.

Indirectly it has come to me from several sections of the Church, - southwest, northwest, far west and central, - and from men of influence, that owing to the group advocating your candidacy, there would be a contest to the bitter end, and that defeat seemed more than a possibility. But even if that is not true, the very fact of a contest such as this, which always generates

Tioga Presbyterian Church

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Philadelphia

Robert R. Littell, D.D., Moderator
1531 W. Tioga Street

John Sutherland, Clerk
133 Witherspoon Bldg.

Walter H. Thomas, Treasurer
20 S. Sixth Street

Leslie Bauer

Henry Barraclough

John W. Bishop

Charles Frutchey

George R. Goodman

Charles H. Henry

Matthew M. Johnston

Charles D. Jones

Robert H. Laird

James S. J. McCutcheon

James J. McCutcheon

Moore

Charles G. Pfeiffer

Robert E. Stegeman

James Stewart

Field S. Weber

-2-

feeling, I would want to evade for your own sake and for the sake of the Board which you represent, and which belongs to the entire Church.

The strife seems to be subsiding this year. I believe by next year you could be elected by acclamation, and be a mighty influence in uniting the kingdom. As to that being true now, I have grave doubts.

Now, my dear Brother, I sincerely trust you will receive this in the spirit in which it is written. It is my personal regard for you and for the cause with which you are so definitely identified, and which belongs to the whole Church, which moves me to write.

Believe me,

Most sincerely your friend,

Robert R. Littell

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

May 2, 1927

ERDMAN, PRESIDENT
ARY PLACE, PRINCETON, N. J.

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My dear Robert:-

In my conversation with Dr. Littell I was rather surprised that he had nothing of a ^{more} serious character to communicate. He seemed to have no facts and to simply be voicing the opinion of the small circle in Philadelphia to which he referred repeatedly as "the group". It does not seem unkind to suggest that anyone who does not belong to this little coterie of irreconcilables would have their opposition and disapproval, and would be classified by them as a representative of modernism.

In referring to the Moderatorship, Dr. Littell stated that in his opinion Mr. Smith would not have the slightest chance of election in case your name came before the Assembly. He stated that there were two reasons why this "group" thought you should not be elected as Moderator. One was because you represented a Board, and the other was because you would be regarded as the choice of the "liberal" party. There does not seem to me to be the slightest weight to either of these statements or opinions. "The group" is very anxious to have you state definitely that you will not accept the position of Moderator. "The group" is very anxious to have one of its own number elected Moderator. "The group" feels quite sure that unless you withdraw it will be impossible to elect anyone else, ~~but yourself~~. It seems to me that it would be a calamity for the Church to allow these men to have their way, and to secure it by such a simple ruse as by threatening to oppose you on the ground that your "election would be regarded as a victory for Modernism." They, of course, have no evidence to support their position, and your election would as a matter of fact represent the will of the whole Church. It would of course be a rebuke to these men who are causing unrest by their suspicions and their political efforts. Nothing would so unite the Church and so advance its work as would your election this year as Moderator of the Assembly.

The result of the interview seemed to disclose this one proposal, namely that if you should now withdraw, it would be understood to be in the interests of Mr. Smith and this would make it certain that you would be elected by acclamation next year. In other words, your withdrawal is the one thing they desire, and any man who is not nominated by them is supposed to be a representative of Modernism. It really seems that your withdrawal now "would be a calamity."

I do sincerely hope that you will not be influenced by the desire of this small group, but will rather yield to the call of the Church at large. It is extremely improbable that this group or any other will venture to support a candidate at the Assembly in case your name is placed in nomination. Everything points so definitely in this

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one direction, that I feel you should take no action whatever, but ~~not~~ go to San Francisco, willing to serve the Church in case it becomes evident that there is a unanimous demand for your services. I beg of you not to make any decision in advance which would make such service impossible.

Affectionately yours,

Charlie

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
New York City.

Please do not take this incident too seriously, - nor the small group concerned. The best interests of the whole church are concerned and involved. "C."

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, N. J.

May 14, 1927

S

Dear Robert:-

Let me thank you for letting me see the enclosed letter and your admirable reply. It seems to me that you have taken in the entire matter an attitude which is in every way commendable and beyond criticism. Sam Hodge belongs to that little group in Philadelphia and Chester Presbyteries who honestly believe that if they can select a man of their appointment this year that then all troubles in the Church would cease. There is no more reason for them expecting you to be elected by acclamation next year than this. In fact, I am increasingly convinced that that is the very thing which will happen this year. It seems certain that Willison Smith will withdraw in your favor, and the Philadelphia group seem to have no other man to suggest. The friends of Dr. Walker in Southern California expect to do the same with his name in case your name is still mentioned.

I am certain we will receive more light when we reach San Francisco.

Yours affectionately,

Charles R. Egan

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
New York City.

May 12, 1927

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth-avenue,
New York City.

Dear Robert:

Your letter conclusively shows that you do not want to be Moderator of the General Assembly and I should judge that you had not changed your mind in that regard since I talked with you about your becoming a candidate at Grand Rapids.

I still believe that if you would permit your name to go before the Assembly, you would be nominated by acclamation. I know Dr. Walker would not allow his name to go forward. I doubt very much whether Dr. Bushnell would, but, of course, I do not know definitely. It may be possible that J. Williston Smith or his friends would insist on presenting his name, but I even doubt that.

I have been asked to present the name of Dr. Bushnell, but of course very promptly declined, although he is a dear friend of mine. If Dr. Walker's name is to be presented, naturally I would want to do all I could for him, providing your name does not go forward. I would not under any circumstances consent to nominate Dr. Walker for very many reasons, some of which are perfectly obvious.

I still think you ought to allow some dignified presentation of your name by somebody, preferably in the Central West, who is not identified as a partisan in the various controversies of the past or present. I do not believe that your membership on the Board at Princeton or your connection with the Foreign Board would prudentially prevent you from being enthusiastically elected. You are the only outstanding layman in our church,

absolutely in a class by yourself and I think I know the Church well enough to know that it is eager to honor you.

With kind regards,

Yours affectionately,

Bar

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. SAMUEL C. HODGE, PASTOR
317 WEST MINER STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA.

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1927
Mr. Spoor

May 11, 1927

Dear Bob,

You are doubtless flooded with letters of all sorts at this time. It is with considerable diffidence that I take up my pen but I do it as an old friend & hope, and I trust I will not be misunderstood.

I need hardly say that I know of no one more desiring the honor of the moderatorship ^{more} than you. If you were you have the election handed down. I am sorry as a pastor of a church, which is shaken as thousands of other churches are by this controversy. I am not sorry as a party to the controversy. Why drag the Foreign Mission Board into the storm center of this controversy again. It is so difficult a year or two ago to keep some of our most earnest supporters of Missions in line with the Board. We were just getting into smoother waters, why start a whole string of fresh misunderstandings. The Princeton matter can be settled without you. If you were free from the Board I would have nothing to say, but when I can see difficult days ahead here even in my own church, I cannot but express the hope that you will not ^{run} this year. Another year and you may be elected enthusiastically by acclamation but this year you will head a party and you will drag the Board into it whether you will or no.

Pardon my frankness - I write just as I feel and in friendship as always - Cordially yours

Samuel C. Hodge

May 13, 1927

*original
+ copy of
sent to Dr.*

Reverend Samuel C. Hodges
317 West Miner Street
West Chester, Pa.

My dear Sam. -

Your good letter of May 11th is just received. I feel just as you do about this matter and have done my utmost to discourage and prevent any consideration of my name in connection with the Moderatorship for which I have never been, and am not now, and never will be a candidate. I did everything in my power to dissuade the Presbytery from appointing me commissioner but they insist that they have a right to require me to serve as commissioner inasmuch as I am to be at the assembly and have no excuse for absence from it. Several years ago the Presbytery elected me and I returned the commission because of Moderatorship talk. At that time the Presbytery felt aggrieved at my action and the Stated Clerk says that they will not consent to my returning the commission now.

Many friends have spoken and written to me about the Moderatorship and they have included quite as many from the conservative side as from any other group. Among those who have urged the matter are Dr. Mark Matthews, President E. D. Warfield, Dr. Stewart Nye Hutchison, and others, and I have told them, as I have told everyone, that I already have all that I can do and that for many reasons, including those which you mention in your letter, I ought to be dropped from all consideration in connection with the Moderatorship, and I shall continue to do everything in my power to discourage and prevent any movement to lay these duties upon me. I have no desire whatever to be Moderator and I know many men in the Church whom I should like to see given this great honor.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

RCS/B

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1927
THE MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

May 11th, 1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 - Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

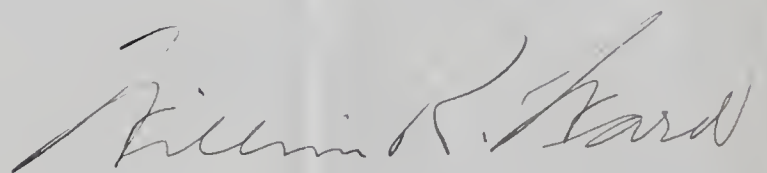
My dear Dr. Speer:-

I note that your name has been suggested as a Moderator of the General Assembly.

Please permit me to say that I know of no one who at the present time could render the Church a more valuable service in this capacity. I realize how fully your time is occupied with numerous duties, but I also realize the emphasis which should be placed upon foreign work at this critical period.

I trust that you will not discourage the promoting of your candidacy.

Very truly yours,



MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

W/D

Samuel C. Hodge

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. SAMUEL C. HODGE, PASTOR
317 WEST MINER STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA.

June - 2. 27

Dear Bob,

I want to most heartily congratulate you on your election to the moderatorship of the Assembly. It was the way you ought to have been elected but it left you of course no choice but that of acceptance. It came about in a wonderful way which was good for us all and good for the Church. I knew that in any ordinary Assembly you would be nominated by acclamation. I did not think it could be done this year but it was and in the finest kind of a way.

Ever Cordially yours

Samuel C. Hodge

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May 18, 1927
(Dictated May 17)

Reverend W. Courtland Robinson
Delhi, New York

My dear Court:

I thank you for your good full letter which came yesterday. There is no time now to answer it as I am leaving this morning for San Francisco for some of the Committee meetings that precede the Assembly.

With your view that the pastor should fill the first place in the life and thought and honor of the Church I fully agree. It is a view which I have again and again taken opportunity to press. That is the very idea that is needed in the Church in China to-day as you will see from the discussion in the report of our deputation, a copy of which I am sending you.

I think you carry your idea a little too far, however, when you exclude teachers and other servants of the Church altogether from some of the duties and opportunities of service in the church's life.

As to the Moderatorship, I am doing and shall continue to do everything in my power to prevent my nomination. I realize clearly the difficulties that are before the Church and trust that some way of solution may be found. The way is made clear enough in the New Testament, but it is easier for us to preach the New Testament doctrine to others than it is to practice it ourselves.

If there were anything I could do to be of help I do not need to tell you that I would rejoice to do it, but I have no idea that I have any such influence or could accomplish any such results as you generously suggest.

Meanwhile we must all be praying and trusting and doing whatever we can to bring all the different forces together in unity of faith and love.

With warm regard,

Ever your friend,

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1927 MAY 27 AM

DR ROBERT E SPEER.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO
REJOICE IN UNANIMOUS ACTION JUDE TWENTY AND TWENTY O
W COURTLAND ROBINSON.

Mr. Speer

W. COURTLAND ROBINSON
DELHI, NEW YORK

By J. A. D.

June 14 1927
FILING DEPT.
JUL 13 1927
SECRETARIES

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York N.Y.

My dear Robert.

I have been reading "Seeking the Mind of Christ" with great interest and profit. "Cultivating a Distaste for Praise" was a Chapter which I needed very much and the reading of it has done me good. I will try to avoid saying anything distasteful to you. I do wish Dray, however, that private letters and the Presbyterian have shown me the fine, masterly way in which you administered the high place in which you were called. David wrote me particularly of your courtesy and fairness. He reported also that Dr. Stevenson was very subdued. I do so wish that we all could get nearer true Christian practice.

I suppose it is futile to ask you to honor my little village Church here for a Sunday or Wednesday on some date prior to Nov. 1st. I never could get you either in Syracuse or Philadelphia so this isolated spot will not draw you. No Moderator of the General Assembly ever visited this particular region. I tried to

2027

PRESBYTERIANS SEE PEACEFUL SESSIONS

Overtures to San Francisco
Assembly Ask Controversies
Be Dropped.

DR. SPEER FOR MODERATOR

Election of New York Man Urged
to Ease Fundamentalist-
Liberal Issue.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22 (P).—
Thorough review of all official matters
scheduled to come before the Presby-
terian General Assembly, which opens
here next Thursday, was completed
tonight by leading national officials of
the denomination and the unanimous
opinion was authoritatively expressed
that the Assembly would be absolutely
united on all doctrinal matters.

All the Church leaders agreed that
the so-called Fundamentalist-Liberal
controversy is a dead issue and that it
could not come before the Assembly in
any form, according to the closest
scrutiny of the docket. Proof of this
harmony was seen in the overtures of-
ficially listed with the stated clerk, Dr.
Lewis Seymour Mudge of Philadelphia,
who arrived yesterday and conferred
with the Moderator, Dr. William Oxley
Thompson of Columbus, Ohio.

Overtures have been approved by
Presbyteries from all over the United
States, including Philadelphia, Ches-
ter, Pa., and New York, which have
been storm centres of doctrinal con-
troversy, asking the General Assembly
to carry the whole Church forward in
a great united movement for a "na-
tion-wide crusade for spiritual reali-
ties," forgetting entirely all the diffi-
culties with which the Church has
been struggling.

Anniversary of Christ's Ministry.
These overtures further urge the
Church to concentrate upon a three-
year observance of the "1,900th an-
niversary of the ministry of our Lord"
and that the Church might go forward
toward meeting the needs of the
world.

In these overtures all ministers and
men are summoned to a "renewed
votion to the primary work of the
Church, to win disciples to the Lord
Jesus Christ," abandoning all contro-
versy. Nearly one-half of the 299 pres-
byteries in the United States have al-
ready concurred in one such overture
and others of similar import.

Coincident with this demand for
peace and progress within the Church
is for the united promoting of the
world-wide work of the denomination
and an insistent call, according to
Church leaders, from every part
of the United States, for a new Moder-
ator to lead the Church in the pro-
posed crusade. Messages from many
of the almost 900 commissioners al-
ready leaving their homes from every
part to join the General Assembly
concentrate on Dr. Robert E. Speer of
New York, senior secretary of the
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Mis-
sions, for moderator.

Numerous other suggested candidates
within the past twenty-four
months indicated that they would not
run in opposition to Dr. Speer, so that
in outlook now is, it is authoritatively
stated, that Dr. Speer has a clear field
in the nomination, which is to be
made at the opening business session
of the Assembly on Thursday.

SHARP FIGHT AWAITS THE PRESBYTERIANS

Princeton Seminary Clash Will
Feature Assembly Opening
in San Francisco Today.

LIBERALS VS. CONSERVATIVES

New York Presbytery Is Sustained
in Preliminary Skirmish on the
Issue of Fundamentalism.

Special to The New York Times.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25.—All of
the one thousand voting delegates to
the 139th General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the United
States are now in this city ready for
the opening session tomorrow. Prelim-
inary conferences have indicated that
unless a steam roller is brought into
action at the last minute, numerous
subjects on which opinion appears
widely divergent will require the exer-
cise of skillful diplomacy if these
opinions are to be harmonized.

The basic cause of this divergence is
that of Fundamentalism versus a
degree of Liberalism. The principal
subject on which those on either side
of the line of cleavage are to oppose
one another is that of the report of
the special committee that investi-
gated the trouble in the Princeton
Theological Seminary. This report
will be read Saturday but discussion
will not be had until Tuesday.

Present indications are that the fight
against acceptance of the report will
be led by the Rev. Dr. Clarence E.
McCartney of Pittsburgh, as support-
ers he has some of the directors of
the seminary, among them Dr. John
B. Laird of Philadelphia; Dr. Robert
S. Inglis of Newark; Dr. Rockwell S.
Frank of Summit, N. J. and Dr. Stuart
N. Hutchinson of Pittsburgh.

McCartney Outlines Opposition.

"Merely a throwing of dust to be-
cloud the real issue," was Dr. Mc-
Cartney's characterization of the ef-
forts of the peace party to make it
appear that the present difficulties
over the seminary are due to unwork-
able features in the plan of Govern-
ment of the institution.

"My associates and I are here to
carry our fight for Princeton to the
floor of the Assembly," he continued.
"We will oppose the adoption of the
report on three substantial bases. The
controversy is definitely between the
so-called Liberals and the Conservative
factions in the Church. Until the doc-
trinal crisis arose over Dr. Harry
Emerson Fosdick, there were no serious
difficulties at Princeton. The perse-
cution of Dr. J. Gresham Machen,
storm centre of the controversy, has
only enhanced his reputation."

Early arriving delegates expressed
the conviction that Dr. Robert E.
Speer of New Jersey, would be named
"moderator" by acclamation. Close
friends of his said that unless he was
chosen by acclamation he would de-
cline to be a candidate. He is a lay
Commissioner and an elder, and his
adherents assert he of all persons men-
tioned can best meet the demands, par-
ticularly as regards the conditions in
China and other foreign fields. He is
Secretary of the Board of Foreign Mis-
sions.

His friends say that while he is a

conservative in theology, he has al-
ways maintained an open minded tol-
erance toward those who disagree with
him, be they fundamentalists or lib-
erals.

Here again, however, the Pennsyl-
vania delegation threatens opposition,
for it has announced that it will back
the candidacy of J. W. Smith, Phila-
delphia banker.

There are a number of ministers
whose names have been mentioned,
and the name of Will H. Hays, "Czar"
of motion pictures, has been heard.
Suggestions have been voiced that if
a deadlock appears imminent he may
be selected as a compromise candidate,
but the general impression is that Dr.
Speer will be the next Moderator.

Two Preliminary Skirmishes.

In two preliminary skirmishes the
reconcilable fundamentalist element
seems to have suffered setbacks. One
of these was the result of sessions here
of the committee on marriage and di-
vorce. The proposition under consid-
eration was whether the clause in the
Confession of faith regarding desertion
a ground for divorce should be ex-
changed.

Dr. McCartney led the fight for a
sterner stand by the Church with re-
gard to the remarriage of divorced
persons. Prevalence of collusion be-
tween married persons toward the pur-
pose of divorce was cited as a reason
for changing the Church law in this
respect. Dr. Mark A. Matthew of
Seattle, opposed definite action at this
time and the question was put over
until November.

The other skirmish had to do with
interpretation of the Church law gov-
erning the rights of individual Pres-
byteries. A special commission work-
ing for "peace, progress and unity"
decided on a middle ground of toler-
ance and harmony.

The specific instance was a decision
sustaining the New York Presbytery
in its action in ordaining several
young ministers who "were not sure"
as to some of the scriptural miracles,
among them that of the virgin birth.
The New York Synod sustained the
Presbyterial action and the subject is
before the permanent judicial commis-
sion, sitting here.

DR. SPEER ELECTED PRESBYTERIAN HEAD

Naming of New Jersey Man as
Moderator by Acclamation Is
Viewed as Peace Move.

PRINCETON CASE ADVANCED

Report Will Be Presented to the
General Assembly Today and
Debated at Once.

Special to The New York Times.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 26.—The peace and harmony advocates at the Presbyterian General Assembly in session here prevailed in the first test of strength when Dr. Robert E. Speer of New Jersey, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, was elected by acclamation as Moderator for the coming year. Such is the interpretation placed by the delegates on the outcome of what had been feared as the first of a series of cleavages because of difference of opinion that involved the issue of Fundamentalism vs Liberalism.

Dr. Speer was placed in nomination by J. Williston Smith of Philadelphia, who had been spoken of prominently as a strong candidate for the post.

Mr. Smith's nominating speech was a ten-minute tribute to the character and the labors of Dr. Speer. Dr. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles made the seconding speech, in which he said that Dr. Speer was the best known and best beloved Presbyterian worker in this generation. When Mr. Walker had concluded, Dr. Walter B. Greenway of Philadelphia moved that the nominations be closed and that the clerk cast for Dr. Speer the vote of the assembly.

Dr. Speer's selection was taken to indicate that the Church is prepared to continue aggressively its missionary work in foreign lands and to set at rest all rumors and fears that by reason of political and other conditions in China and some European nations this activity would be curtailed.

A further indication that the harmony steam-roller has accomplished its purpose was seen in the announcement today that the Princeton Theological Seminary report would be presented to the assembly tomorrow and discussed. Saturday had been set as the day for submission of the report and the discussion had been set for Tuesday.

Commenting tonight on Dr. Speer's election as Moderator, Dr. Greenway, leader among the conservatives, said that it was "a distinct step toward insuring those conditions of peace and purity in the Church which every one is so anxious to see realized.

"The unanimous choice of Dr. Speer, the leading Christian statesman of the world, a man universally respected and admired, is renewed evidence of the fact that the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America is fundamentally sound and true."

Retiring Moderator Preaches.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 26 (AP).—In his sermon before the Presbyterian General Assembly today Dr. W. O. Thompson, the retiring Moderator, had as his subject "The Gospel of Reconciliation." Dr. Thompson appealed for less materialism in the daily life of the country.

LIBERALS AGAIN WIN ON PRINCETON ISSUE

Presbyterian Assembly Holds
Up Machen Appointment,
Urged by Fundamentalists.

BOARD REVISION AWAITED

Both Machen and Allis Revert
to Status Quo Until Seminary
Is Reorganized.

SUNDAY BUSINESS SCORED

Bowlby Says Hays Promises Movie
Aid—Divorce Question Goes
Over for a Year.

Special to The New York Times.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30.—So-called ultra-Fundamentalism in the Presbyterian Church of the United States made its final stand in the General Assembly today on the Princeton Theological Seminary issue and was defeated by the liberal group.

The seminary report, which the Fundamentalists have opposed both before and since the Assembly has been in session, was finally adopted at this afternoon's proceedings by a viva voce vote so overwhelming that it was not counted.

After the vote the Rev. Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, President of the seminary, was called to the speakers' platform. There were tears in his eyes as he endeavored to express his appreciation of this approval of his course. He gave a pledge that the school would carry forward the teachings of God.

The effect of today's action by the Assembly is to hold up the elevation of Dr. J. Gresham Machen to the Chair of Apologetics and the appointment of Professor Oswald T. Allis to the Helena Chair of Semitics, pending the reorganization of seminary control, already voted by the General Assembly.

Dr. Inglis Leads Opposition.

Dr. Robert Scott Inglis of Newark, N. J., led the debate against adoption of the recommendations that remained after the vote of Saturday, when the Assembly approved the first one, that for a unified control of the seminary. Supporting him was Dr. David S. Kennedy of Philadelphia, former editor of the Fundamentalist paper, The Presbyterian.

The appointment of Dr. Machen to the Chair of Apologetics was made the point at issue, but there also entered into the situation the case of Dr. Allis, named for the Chair of Semitics.

Dr. W. O. Thompson, Chairman of Princeton Investigating Committee, moved that the two remaining recommendations be combined in the voting. He explained that he believed it only right that nothing preferential should mar the proceedings and that inasmuch as Dr. Machen's name had been mentioned that of Dr. Allis also should become public.

Dr. Thompson also emphasized that the action of the Assembly did not mean that either educator had been dropped from the Faculty, but that they assumed the status quo they occupied before their appointments were made and which became one of the major factors of the Princeton controversy.

Machen's Services Praised.

An impassioned defense of Dr. Machen, an instructor in the seminary, was made by Dr. Inglis when the debate over the report of the investigating committee was reopened.

The disputed recommendation provided that "pending the reorganization of the seminary under a single governing board the appointment of Dr. Machen to the Chair of Apologetics be not confirmed."

Dr. Inglis urged that the Assembly take no action on the recommendation and quoted laws of the Church in an effort to prove the Assembly would be violating its constitution if it passed the recommendation without giving at least one year for consideration of the proposed action.

In defending Dr. Machen's stand for "ultra conservatism" in the theological teaching at Princeton Dr. Inglis declared that the spiritual leadership of Christ was being assailed on every side today.

"All about us are the disintegrating forces of intellectual godlessness," he said. "From New England is the seepage of Unitarian intellectualism. From New York comes the virus of a culture dominated by Jewish thought. Intellectualism is thrust upon us by the magazines and educational institutions. Even in our own Presbyterian Church we have 3,500 ministers who were not trained in Presbyterian institutions. Dr. Machen was troubled by these things."

Admits Division in Board.

Dr. Inglis admitted that there was some division in the Board of Directors and Faculty, but pointed out that Dr. Machen's appointment was made by a vote of nineteen directors out of twenty-eight. He referred to the fact that the Board of Trustees had provided for the payment of Dr. Machen's salary.

"There is some division," he said, "but I am convinced if we had been let alone we would have gotten together before this."

Sunday Amusements Attacked.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30 (AP).—Help in clamping down on business houses and all forms of amusements on Sunday was asked by the Rev. Dr. Harry L. Bowlby of New York, Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, in a speech before the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America here today.

Dr. Bowlby said that Will H. Hays, "czar" of the movies and a Presbyterian layman, had promised him that motion picture producers would not support interests that are trying to put over a commercial Sunday.

The Committee on Marriage and Divorce asked the assembly to give it one year more in which to consider some important items before rendering a decision outlining the attitude of the church on the subjects. This was granted.

The Memorial Day address was delivered by Dr. Clarence Edward McCartney of Pittsburgh, former mod-

SPEER BIDS CHURCH TO BRING IN YOUTH

Moderator Closes Assembly With Plea for Religious Training in Homes.

AVERTS CLASH ON DOCTRINE

He Satisfies a Fundamentalist by Having All Present Repeat the Apostles' Creed.

Special to The New York Times.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1.—In his final words before dissolving the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States today the Moderator, Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York, sounded a rallying call to the whole church for more religious training in the home, for a greater spirit of reverence toward spiritual things and a more solid intellectual foundation upon which to rest faith.

Dr. Speer called attention to the recommendations of the Special Committee of 1925, which stated that the church must bear the responsibility for lack of interest on the part of young men and women in the work of the church.

"The church today," said Dr. Speer, "is faced with the great problem of readjustment to meet the attractions of modern influences and inventions. It is for us to meet them and utilize them to bring our children into the church."

A resolution on prohibition, substituted for that offered yesterday, was adopted by the assembly unanimously. It differed from the original resolution in that all reference to party support of the Eighteenth Amendment was deleted. As adopted, the resolution expressed unalterable opposition to the repeal or nullification of the amendment, deplored the lack of conscience of otherwise upright people, who in their social relations use intoxicants as they please, and called upon citizens to obey the law and assist in its enforcement.

Clash on Doctrine Averted.

By the exercise of diplomacy the moderator averted today what threatened to become a bitter debate on the doctrine of the virgin birth.

In opening the session today Dr. Speer stated that parliamentary mistakes had been made in passing upon the recommendation of the Judicial Commission yesterday, due to the ambiguity of a new rule of procedure, adopted two years ago but never before tested.

"It is too late to rectify these mistakes entirely," Dr. Speer said. "Taking them in the aggregate they have neutralized themselves; but let us make this blindness the basis of a request that the General Council study the procedure in judicial cases."

An elderly, snowy-haired Fundamentalist, the Rev. Dr. W. R. Huston of New London, asked if the ruling was to be interpreted that the Church did not accept the doctrine of the virgin birth.

"Many of us are troubled," he said. "Does our historic church no longer bear witness to the faith? I ask that a vote be taken."

Raising his hands for the audience to rise, Dr. Speer intoned the pledges of the Apostles' creed, joined by the reverent voices of the hundreds of commissioners:

"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: "And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." "I am satisfied," said Dr. Huston. "The assembly has spoken." The minutes of the preceding meeting at which the parliamentary errors were committed were then adopted with the proviso that the procedure followed be not construed as a precedent.

Pleads for Church Missions.

The report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions was read by the Rev. Dr. Stuart Nye Hutchinson. At the conclusion of the report a

Speer as Moderator

The Presbyterian Church, large and influential, meets in what in secular terms would be called a delegated convention once a year. Its first important action is the election of the presiding officer, who also will appear before the nation through the ensuing year as the official representative of the denomination, known as the moderator. Eagerly desired is the honor and responsibility of this office. The roll of the moderators through the last hundred years is starred with great names, and yet some names are as remarkable for their omission as are others for their inclusion. This year, with a controversy between the liberals and the fundamentalists still unsettled, the choice of a moderator for the San Francisco general assembly, which began yesterday, was a peculiarly delicate problem. That problem now is happily solved by the withdrawal of the other leading candidates and the agreement to elect Dr. Robert E. Speer by acclamation.

The honor is remarkable for several reasons. Dr. Speer is not a clergyman; he was still a theological student when, having proved his remarkable powers by his work in behalf of the student volunteer movement for foreign missions, he was made a member of the Presbyterian board for foreign missions. He is accepted now by all parties as the one man for a duty of great delicacy. For years he has been "the best loved man in the church." His power as a speaker is well known; he speaks "with an unction." He has the vision also of a poet. The first time I ever heard Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar" he recited it at the close of a remarkable address. Many times he has declared that the Revelation of St. John is more splendid than any other work of imaginative truth. Any denomination which has such a man is rich and powerful whatever its numbers may be.

group of missionaries from all corners of the world contributed a symposium on foreign conditions. Dr. Speer concluded the foreign missionary program with a stirring plea for an even greater support of missionary work in these years when the old foundations have been shaken and the need of Christianity is greater than ever before. He told of the tragic happenings in Nanking, China, when Dr. John E. Williams lost his life, and of the profound sorrow of the Chinese people.

A resolution commending the United States Government on its stand for disarmament was approved. A resolution approving an enlarged emphasis on evangelism was recommended by the committee and passed enthusiastically.

Congratulations from the Episcopal Pension Fund Board were received by telegram, and read to the assembly, on its success in raising the \$15,000,000 ministerial pension fund. The telegram was signed by Bishop William Lawrence of Massachusetts.

The Moderator added the following names to the committee on the Princeton Theological Seminary reorganization:

Ethelbert D. Warfield of Princeton, Judge M. Linn Bruce, the Rev. John McDowell and Edward J. Fox of New York, Henry S. Brown of Chicago and Cheeseman Harris of Philadelphia.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

As we write this note the General Assembly is meeting in San Francisco in its 139th annual meeting. The first General Assembly was held in Philadelphia in 1789, and was presided over by Rev. John Witherspoon, D. D., president of Princeton College, only 21 years out from Scotland, a former and influential member of the Continental Congress, and the only clergyman of any denomination who signed the Declaration of Independence. The present moderator is Dr. Robert E. Speer, senior secretary of the Foreign Missions Board, and for nearly 40 years a leader in the Student Volunteer work, and himself a Student Volunteer. At the end of his Junior year in the Seminary he was called to be secretary of the

Board of Foreign Missions. This position he has held ever since, and is a recognized Missionary leader an authority in all the world. He never accepted ordination to the ministry, though he is a D. D. of Edinburgh, one of the very few laymen to be so honored. He is a commissioner to the General Assembly as an elder, not as a minister. He is an A. B. of Princeton University, an honorary A. M. of Yale, and an L. L. D. of Rutledge College. He is the author of several standard books on religion and missions: he is a great scholar and speaker, and a great Christian. The church had no better man to put in the Moderator's chair. We are sure the Assembly over which he presides will be kept at high spiritual level.

LAYMAN IS E N. Y. DOCTOR NAMED HEAD OF CHURCH BY ACCLAMATION

Modernist Dispute Laid Aside as All Factions Unite on Leader for High Position

Forgetting doctrinal differences in an outburst of enthusiasm, members of the 139th general assembly of the Presbyterian Church yesterday elected Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York, one of the outstanding Protestant laymen in America, as moderator.

Dr. Speer's election by acclamation marked the opening business session of the assembly, which is meeting here at the Civic Auditorium. It also indicated that the church factions, which have been split on the question of modernism, have been drawn together on a harmonious basis.

For thirty-five years Dr. Speer has been on the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and for many years its secretary. Although he has never occupied a pulpit, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was bestowed on him in recognition of his work by the University of Edinburgh in 1910—the only time a layman has been thus honored.

NAMED BY "RIVAL."

He was nominated from the platform by J. Willison Smith, president of the West End Trust Company, of Philadelphia, an avowed Fundamentalist, and himself a candidate for Moderator. Smith's nomination of Dr. Speer as the candidate who would unite the two groups came at the end of a three-hour conference of Presbyterian leaders at the St. Francis Hotel.

The new moderator, who succeeds William Oxley Thompson, president emeritus of Ohio State College, was given a reception in the Auditorium rotunda after the meeting, and later went into conference with church leaders over the appointment of standing committees and a vice-moderator.

"This honor has not been given to me personally, I feel," said Dr. Speer, "but rather to enable the Assembly to assert to the whole world, in this day of upheavals and uprising, the deathless tenacity by which we mean to hold to our missionary purpose and obligation."

The Assembly today and tomorrow will have before it the report of the Special Commission of 15 appointed in 1925 to investigate causes of "unrest" in the church. Dr. Speer is one of the 15 members of the commission.

The commission's report was placed on the calendar yesterday as a special order of business for 3 p. m. today. The report will be read, but not discussed. The discussion was made a "special order" on Saturday.

On Saturday, also, the assembly will hear the report of the special committee on the Princeton Theological Seminary. Discussion of the Princeton report has been set for Tuesday afternoon. It involves in a clean-cut issue the question of Modernism versus Fundamentalism, and may bring about a sharp controversy.

The election of Dr. Speer as Moderator, however, was declared equivalent to a compromise that may preclude any discussion of Modernist tendencies—at least from the floor. Dr. Speer is known as a man of conservative theology, tempered by a world-wide outlook and tolerance.

"You are the foremost Christian statesman in America today," was the retiring Moderator's greeting. His words brought a round of ap-

plause from the 1,800 delegates to the assembly.

"My choice for this post would have been a pastor," said Dr. Speer. "The strength of the church is in her pastors, and I should have liked to have seen one of them given this honor. He would be an old pastor, preferably, and a country pastor—one who had toiled for generations among his people."

Both Dr. Speer and Smith are natives of Pennsylvania. Rev. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles seconded the nomination, and the nominations were closed on the motion of Dr. Walter B. Greenway, another Pennsylvanian, now pastor of a large church in Philadelphia.

Dr. Speer has served in nearly every land where the Presbyterian's world-wide chain of missions extends.

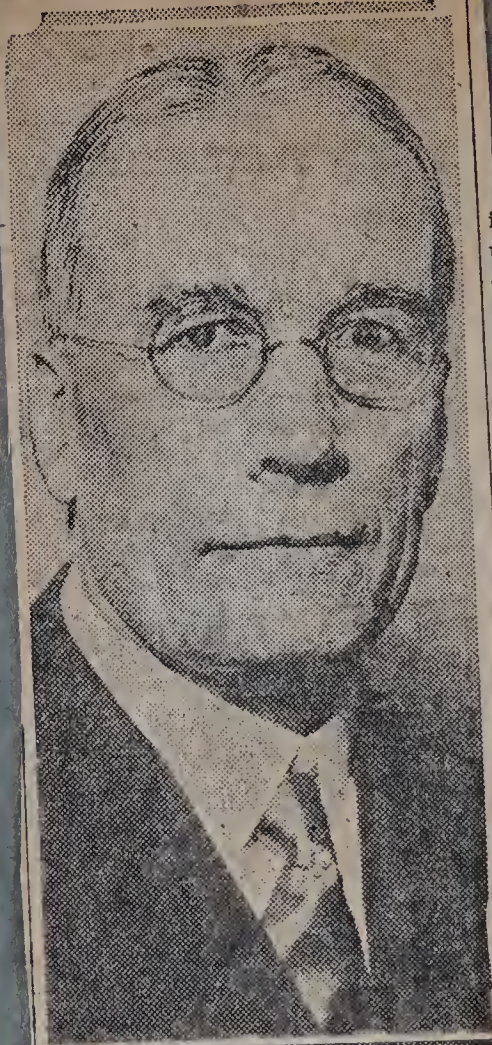
SEEKS UNITY.

He is a member of the Department of Church co-operation, which is working for a union of various Protestant denominations; he represents the Foreign Missions Board on the General Council of the Presbyterian Church; he is a member of the special commission appointed in 1925 to investigate causes of unrest in the church; a member of the Commission on Marriage and Divorce; and for four years he was president of the Federal Council of Churches of America.

Other candidates for the office of Moderator included Dr. John E. Bushnell of Minneapolis, who withdrew in favor of Dr. Speer; Dr. Walker of Los Angeles; Rev. George E. Robinson of Chicago, head of the McCormick Theological Seminary; and Dr. Alvin E. Magary, pastor of a Detroit church, who was born "south of the slot" in San Francisco.

All meetings of the Assembly are open to the public. Yesterday's sessions, including a meeting in the evening devoted to the interests of Presbyterian young people, were broadcast.

'United We Stand'



DR. ROBERT E. SPEER, elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church, who is described as a leader who will unite the two groups of the church.

Religious Row Shelved at Meet

Modernism May Also Be Tabled

Examiner

By DR. F. W. CLAMPETT. *May 27, 29*

There were two outstanding features of the first day's session of the national Assembly of the Presbyterian Church now meeting in the Civic Auditorium. Dr. William O. Thompson, in his sermon, struck the keynote of the convention.



It may be taken for granted that the subject of modernism and fundamentalism will be shelved. In his discourse he made it clear that all matters of controversy will be eliminated. That was emphasized with could not be mistaken.

In the unanimous election to the office of Moderator of Dr. Robert E. Speer, the conservative element in the assembly showed its power. Dr. Speer is distinctly neutral and has been the most able of the leaders in the desire to effect a compromise.

To be sure, the matter of the theological trouble in Princeton University will be submitted at the morning session, but it is settled that the debate will be confined to the position taken by the two men in their attitude towards certain articles of belief. It has been arranged that the general position of certain modernists will be ignored.

EVANGELISTIC SUBJECT.

In an interview with Dr. Hugh K. Walker, whose friendship I have enjoyed for over 35 years, he assured me that the leading subject to engage the attention of the assembly will be altogether evangelistic. In Dr. Walker's speech, seconding the nomination of Speer, he referred to the influence which was bound to be exerted in the church at large as an outcome of his election.

Dr. Speer has been the leading spirit of his church for the past twenty-five years in Mission work. He is the most earnest advocate of a policy of "Evangelism" and is convinced that the day has arrived in the history of the church when the revival of Home missions should be undertaken.

He is persuaded that the effort of the church at large to create a nation-wide spiritual revival will be paramount in crushing the spirit of controversy.

While both Dr. Thompson and Dr. Hugh K. Walker were in agreement two delegates from the Middle West expressed themselves quite forcibly on the other side. They

were emphatic in the belief that the present assembly could not possibly ignore the burning questions brought to the forefront by both pastors and laity all over the country.

"GOSPEL SERMON."

It was interesting to study the comments of many delegates on the handling of his subject at the morning session by the moderator, Dr. Thompson. It was absolutely evangelical in spirit. In fact, it was what William Jennings Bryan would have termed an "old-fashioned gospel sermon."

The preacher emphasized with strong language the heinousness of sin, denounced the alibis whereby it was condoned and enunciated as the only panacea the sacrificial act of the man of Galilee. He referred, in terms at once definite and uncompromising to the growing materialism of our day, and made an eloquent appeal for the application of the "Gospel of the Reconciliation."

Speaking simply as a critic without bias, I should pronounce the first session of the assembly as dignified, reverent, simple and inspiring.

Being an Episcopalian by birth and training I turned my back on the 39 articles of my church and cherished for the time being the principles inculcated in the Westminster confession. Thus I felt quite at home and left the auditorium with the strong, earnest words of Robert E. Speer ringing in my ears.

Newark Times, Calendar June 12, 29

The Pastor's Message

My dear people:

The sessions of the 139th General Assembly were concluded last week in San Francisco. They were characterized by a great unity of conviction and purpose. Serious issues were carefully thought through and resolved in decisions that we may well believe will "promote the peace, unity, purity and progress of the Church."

Among the outstanding achievements of the General Assembly were the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the enterprise of Home Missions and the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of organized Women's work, the determination of the General Assembly to reorganize Princeton Seminary and the decision of the Assembly to follow constitutional and not hasty and irregular processes in dealing with controversial issues.

The most important matter before the Assembly was the presentation of the successful raising of the Fifteen Million Dollar Pension Fund and the launching of the new Service Pension Plan. It was the pastor's privilege to give the address at the mass meeting which thronged the San Francisco Auditorium the night before the report of the Laymen's Committee. The Hon. Will H. Hays in a remarkable address the next morning reported that the Fund had been oversubscribed.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, who was elected Moderator by acclamation, made a profound impression upon the Assembly by his masterful presence and spirit. It is not too much to say that no General Assembly in all the history of our Church ever enjoyed a more inspiring and successful meeting. Your pastor expresses his grateful appreciation to the Session for granting him the necessary leave of absence as well as to the Board of Ministerial Relief and Sustentation for their invitation to represent them in the popular presentation of their sacred Cause. He also expresses the hope and prayer that the spiritual refreshing which has come to him may genuinely enrich his ministry in Old First Church.

Faithfully yours,

William Aram Foulkes

Dr. R. E. Speer Unanimously JUDGE

SELECTION OF N. Y. MAN WINS ACCLAMATION OF ASSEMBLY

Settlement of Doctrinal Dis- cord Presaged by Ele- vation to Office

Hailed by his fellow churchmen as "the greatest Christian statesman in the United States today" and "the best known and best loved man in the Presbyterian church," Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York was elected unanimously and by acclamation as moderator of the Presbyterian church yesterday at the opening business session.

J. Willison Smith, Philadelphia banker and one of the leading figures in the Pennsylvania ultra-fundamentalist group, who up to a few hours before the election was looked upon as Speer's chief opponent for the moderatorship, made the nominating address, and Rev. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles, another mentioned for the office, seconded the nomination. Dr. Walter B. Greenway, also from the Philadelphia stronghold, immediately moved the nominations be closed and the secretary instructed to cast the assembly's unanimous ballot for Dr. Speer.

ELECTION POINTS TO PEACE

Dr. Speer's election, coming as it did without a dissenting voice and with the enthusiastic expression of approval from the huge audience, was taken as an indication that the dove of peace has settled over the national church body, which, for the last week has been threatened with strife. As a man of conservative theology, but broad tolerance, he was looked upon as the ideal leader to heal the breach of threatened doctrinal discord.

He is the second layman ever to be elected to the office of moderator, John William Baer of Pasadena having been the first of the unordained to serve in this capacity. Dr. Speer, however, took his training in Princeton Theological Seminary, but entered the missionary field thirty-five years ago. He holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh.

ELECTION IS DRAMATIC

The election was dramatic in spirit. A flutter of expectation and surprise passed over the throng which filled almost to capacity the floor and galleries of the Civic Auditorium and J. Willison Smith rose and was recognized from the rear of the hall when nominations were called for. There was a moment of tense silence as he took his place on the platform, then with a smile launched into the address of

nomination. He paid the tribute of friendship to a fellow churchman, of admiration for the abilities and character of the man and his attainments as "an ambassador of the church."

Dr. Speer was surrounded by a group of the elders from his seat in the New Jersey section, and was escorted to the platform.

INTRODUCED TO ASSEMBLY

"I have a profound joy in introducing you, my beloved brother, to this assembly as its new moderator," said Dr. W. O. Thompson, the retiring moderator. "I recognize in you the first Christian statesman in the United States today. I cannot wish you a happier experience than I have had. In your hands I place this book of rules, which I have never used, and this gavel. May you use it only in peace."

For several moments the audience stood, applauding and cheering.

"No man could be insensible to such an honor as this, or ungrateful to have been chosen to this office, the greatest gift in the power of the church to bestow," said Dr. Speer when the din ceased. "I had hoped and prayed you might have found someone else among the good friends mentioned for this office. I have felt deeply reluctant to assume the duties of this office. But I recognize that you have done what you have done because you wanted to assert in clear and unequivocal terms to all the world our indissoluble unity, our recognition of our missionary obligations and our devotion to our historic program."

REFERS TO PRESBYTERIES

Speer referred lovingly to the two presbyteries most interested in his election, Jersey City, his present home, and Huntington, Pa., his boyhood home. Dr. Speer has for many years been secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions and is loved round the world for his work in foreign lands.

The other candidates listed for the moderatorship met behind closed doors for hours preceding the election and after long discussion agreed to withdraw from the field in support of Dr. Speer. This move eliminated the anticipated heated contest on the assembly floor. In recognition of the generous spirit of J. Willison Smith in withdrawing in spite of a loyal following pledged to his support, the assembly gave him a rising vote of thanks.

NINE ON BALLOT

There were nine candidates for moderator on the ballot, the others being Dr. J. E. Bushnell, Minneapolis; Dr. George L. Robinson, Chicago; Dr. Hugh K. Walker, Los Angeles; Dr. Alvin E. Magery, Detroit; Will H. Hays, Indianapolis; Dr. Frank E. McKean, Spokane, Wash.; Rev. Stuart N. Hutchinson, Pittsburgh.

Bushnell, by wire, expressed a wish to withdraw in favor of Speer, and before the election Speer declared that he did not want the office unless he could take it as a "call." He had made a previous statement that he would not be a candidate unless assured of nomination by acclamation.

4500 HEAR SERMON BY DR. THOMPSON IN AUDITORIUM

**Simplicity Marks Service;
Discourse of Moderator
Grips Audience**

Church Editor of The Chronicle. More than 4500 persons assembled in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium yesterday forenoon to hear the opening sermon of Rev. William Oxley Thompson, D. D., LL. D., moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., at the opening of the 139th annual convention of that body. That the majority of these were communicants of the church was evidenced in the fact that practically all of them remained for the celebration of the holy communion that followed the discourse.

SIMPLICITY MARKS SERVICE

Simplicity almost to the point of austerity characterized the opening service. Without ceremony, Moderator Thompson, accompanied by Stated Clerk Lewis Seymour Mudge, D. D., LL. D., Rev. Ezra Van Nuys, D. D., pastor of Calvary Church, designated by the presbytery as the host church; Rev. Robert Semple Donaldson, D. D., executive secretary of the church extension board of San Francisco presbytery, and Chester Irvin Green, assistant pastor of Calvary Church, came upon the platform at 10:25. Promptly at the hour appointed Uda Waldrop pealed forth the tune of the opening hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy," and the great congregation rose en masse and began to sing. Although there was no precentor, with baton in hand, the rythm of the great organ held the people together in perfect time.

GIVES FINE SERMON

Dr. Thompson's sermon was delivered with the grace and ease found only in the man who has had years of experience as a platform orator. His style of thought as well as modulation and gesture was more as modulation and gesture was more the measured effort of a political speaker than the fervid oratory of the average pulpiteer. Someone sitting near the writer suggested that, at times, his voice sounded over the magnavox strangely like that of the late William Jennings Bryan, who had spoken so often from the same platform seven years ago at the National Democratic convention, and who was an intimate friend of Dr. Thompson.

SERMON GRIPS THROG

While his subject was an old one—"The Gospel of Reconciliation"—and his text a familiar one (II Corinthians 5:18-19), the treatment was unique and interesting during the full forty-nine minutes spent in its wrapt attention of his vast congregation. While it was profound in its conception, it was worded in the simplest phraseology. It was decidedly practical rather than dogmatic. His words were only such

Flood Relief Fund Reaches \$51,669-Mark

HERE are those who yesterday contributed to The Chronicle's fund for Mississippi flood sufferers, the money being turned over the American Red Cross:

W. T. D.	60.00
The Novo Club of S. F.	\$ 50.00
The Order of Klossa	25.00
Social Circle	10.00
Mothers' Help Guild	10.00
T. W. Guerin	5.00
May C. Fricale	5.00
Trojan and Mohican Boys and Girls' Club	3.50
G. P. Roberts	1.00
Yesterday's receipts	\$ 169.50
Previously reported	\$51,499.62
Total	\$51,669.12

as were necessary to reveal, not so profuse as to conceal, his message.

PAST CHIEFS PRESENT

Among th past moderators in the audience were Rev. Mark Allison Matthews, D. D., LL.D., pastor of Presbyterianism's largest church, First Church of Seattle, Wash.; Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D. D., president of Princeton Theological Seminary; Rev. John Timothy Stone, D. D., LL.D., pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago; Henry C. Swearingen, D. D., LL.D., pastor of House of Hope, St. Paul; Rev. Clarence Edward Macartney, D. D., pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg, and John Willis Baer, LL.D., ruling elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, and chairman of the recent laymen's campaign committee that raised nearly \$900,000 for the pension fund for aged ministers within the State of California, who enjoys the distinction of being the only ruling elder ever holding that office up to the time of this writing.

COMMUNION IMPRESSIVE

The administration of the holy communion by Dr. Mudge, following the sermon, was the most impressive service of its kind the writer has ever attended. There was something about the invocation of Dr. Mudge, as he read the simple communion service of the Presbyterian church that gave an added meaning to the words and lifted the whole audience up into that atmosphere of spiritual meditation and communion necessary to the fullest enjoyment of the service. Directed by Rev. Ezra Allen Van Nuys, D. D., assisted by the Rev. Chester Irvin Green, the elements were administered by 100 ruling elders drawn from every part of the United States; yet the teamwork was so perfect that one would have sensed little different from an orderly administration in the humblest Presbyterian church of the land.

CHURCH REPORT STIRS INTEREST

Commission for Settlement of Doctrinal Dispute to Give Findings Today

Principal interest in the proceedings today of the Presbyterian General Assembly centers on the report of the special commission of fifteen, appointed by the General Assembly in 1925 to investigate and attempt to bring about a settlement of the unrest caused by theological differences in the denomination. The endeavors of the commission were aside from the Princeton Theological Seminary subject. A number of meetings have been held since the members arrived in San Francisco, and among the recommendations that will be made to the assembly is that sustaining the Presbytery of New York in the ordination of young ministers who "were not certain" as to their convictions when it came to some of the miracles of the Bible.

Other business of the sessions today include submission of a number of reports from various departments of the assembly, and, in some instances, discussion of these reports.

The members of the commission of fifteen are:

Edward Dickinson, president of the Prudential Insurance Company of America and trustee of Princeton University.

Judge John H. De Witt of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Dr. John M. T. Finney, ex-president of the American Surgical Association and the American College of Surgery. During the war Dr. Finney was Brigadier-General in the United States Army and chief consultant in surgery for the American Expeditionary Forces.

President Cheesman A. Herrick of Girard College, Philadelphia.

Nelson H. Loomis, L. L. D., general solicitor of the Union Pacific Railroad and corporation counsel of the Union Pacific System.

Hon. Nathan G. Moore, director of the Chicago Title and Trust Company and trustee of Lafayette College.

Dr. Robert E. Spear, senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

Professor Alfred H. Barr of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, and director of Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Henry C. Swearingen, pastor of the House of Hope, St. Paul, Minn.

Dr. Hugh T. Kerr, president of the Board of Western Theological Seminary.

Dr. Lapsley A. McAfee, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Cal., and trustee of the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Dr. Harry C. Rogers, pastor of Linwood Avenue Church, Kansas City, and trustee of McCormick Theological Seminary and Park College.

President Emeritus W. O. Thompson of Ohio State University.

Dr. Edgar Whitaker Work, former pastor of the Fourth Church of New York city, and of the First Church of Berkeley, Cal.

Dr. Mark A. Matthews of Seattle, pastor of the largest Presbyterian Church in the United States.

ALIBIS FOR SIN OVERWORKED, DR. THOMPSON AVERS INTALK

Retiring Presbyterian Moderator Delivers Sermon Opening Assembly

Persons who have committed a sin proscribed by the statutes are not the only ones who use the alibi in an endeavor to escape the consequences of their act; those who have sinned against the teachings of Christ also attempt to excuse themselves by the alibi method—and it is being overworked.

Thuswise did Rev. William Oxley Thompson, D. D. LL.D., president emeritus of Ohio State University, and retiring moderator of the Presbyterian church, sound the keynote of his discourse delivered yesterday at the opening session of the 139th annual Presbyterian General Assembly in the Civic Auditorium. His text was from II Corinthians 5:18-19, and his theme was "The Gospel of Reconciliation." In his discourse he made these points:

ALIBI OVERWORKED

"Obviously the alibi has been overworked. Men operate on the theory that a man's ways are just in his own eyes. This accounts for many of the innumerable excuses by which men attempt to escape the unpleasant condition of sin. Meantime sin has persisted in its deadly consequences. No one has yet been able to escape the judgment that 'sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.' There is nothing new about this announcement. That is the tragedy of it. The same old record of disaster, worse than all the rest of nature with her fires, floods and famines, is a never-ending, continuous story of endless repetition but no reformation. Nothing has occurred in all the history of progress to transform sin or make it respectable.

NO ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY

"No wonder men have sought release in the alibi. They would gladly be relieved of any responsibility for transgression, iniquity and sin. Experience with sin has been so disastrous that no one has come forward with an attempt to justify it or make it respectable. There have been cases where the morally color blind under the blighting influence of selfishness have attempted to explain away the obvious teachings of Holy Scripture. Explanations are often interesting, but not so often satisfying. The darkness abides.

DEFENSE NEVER WELCOME

"The fact that sin is so intimately personal still further explains the use of the alibi. The defense of sin is never a welcome task. Men do not usually desire to sacrifice their own good names as a reward for trying to make sin attractive. Many there are who attempt an explanation, but few there be who attempt a justification of sin. Some means of escape from the disrepute of sin is eagerly sought. There is conscience enough in the worst of men to restrain them from a defense of that which they cannot justify except upon the same basis as that

which seeks to justify selfishness. Others less depraved in their ideals seek a means of escape through affirming the universality of selfishness as if that proved it a necessary part of the moral order.

SIN WREAKS HAVOC

"It is well that we recognize the profound and permanent effects of sin as the great disturbing force in the moral order. It has wrought havoc in the heart and life of the individual, often leading him as a slave to the consequences of his baser emotions and his disordered thinking. Its roots are found in selfishness, self-assertion as against God, and a failure from the days of Cain to recognize the relation and obligation of brotherhood. The clearer our conception of God and of man, the darker is our conception of sin.

RESULTS OF SIN

"Under these circumstances, no interpretation of life that ignores the deadly trail of sin brings a satisfactory view. Sin has wrecked the relationship between neighbor and neighbor, has produced in the individual heart 'enmity against God,' has introduced the reign of selfishness in the individual, and thus at every point brought chaos in the moral order. Such a situation demands more than a superficial remedy."

Presbyterian Judicial Commission Begins Its Deliberations on Cases

Its deliberations conducted with the utmost secrecy, the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian General Assembly, known as the Supreme Court and the highest department of appeal of the assembly, began yesterday consideration of a number of cases referred to it. The meetings are being held in the Clift Hotel and the results of the deliberations will not be made public until Tuesday afternoon, when the judgments will be referred to the assembly.

One of the cases under consideration is that of Albert H. Crombie, deposed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Lead, S. D. According to Associated Press dispatches, he should arrive here today or tomorrow, the purpose of his journey being to appeal to the General Assembly the action that deposed him.

CHURCH OUSTS PASTOR

As the result of a church controversy in Lead, the State Synod of South Dakota terminated the pastoral relation of Crombie and the Lead church. This was a year ago and shortly thereafter the Synod instructed the Black Hills Presbytery to institute proceedings to depose Crombie from the ministry. This was done last November on grounds of "insubordination and conduct unbecoming a minister." A meeting of the Synod, called at his request on appeal, adjourned without action, the Synod finding that the call for the meeting was unconstitutional.

Other principal cases now before the Commission include that of Rev. Walter D. Buchanan, D. D., vs. the

Synod of New York; James A. Hamilton vs. Presbytery of New York; the continuing minorities of the First and South Street Presbyterian churches of Morristown, N. J., vs. Presbytery of Morris and Orange; the minority of the congregation of the Kanawha Presbyterian Church of Charleston, W. Va., vs. the Synod of West Virginia; Rev. R. S. Inglis et al. vs. the Synod of New Jersey. The differences involved are said to be mainly of a doctrinal nature.

MODERATOR OF COURT

The moderator of the court is Judge M. Linn Druce, former Lieutenant-Governor and a Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State. Other members are:

Rev. Samuel D. Harkness, pastor at Kansas City, who is vice-moderator of the court.
Rev. Peter K. Emmons of Trenton, N. J., pastor of the Trenton First Presbyterian Church, secretary.

Rev. Joseph M. Duff, retired minister of Pittsburg.

Dr. Robert Watson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Boston.

Evans Woolyen, banker of Indianapolis, who is being hooped in Democratic quarters for Presidential nominee. He was defeated as the Democratic candidate for United States Senate last year and is backed by the Taggart camp.

Dr. Frank Chalmers McKean, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Spokane.

Walter F. Eagleston, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Washington, D. C.

Rev. Andrew J. Zenos, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Chicago.

Jed W. Burns, Los Angeles business executive.

Rev. Harry M. Gage, president of Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Jonathan W. Crudgington, Amarillo, Tex.

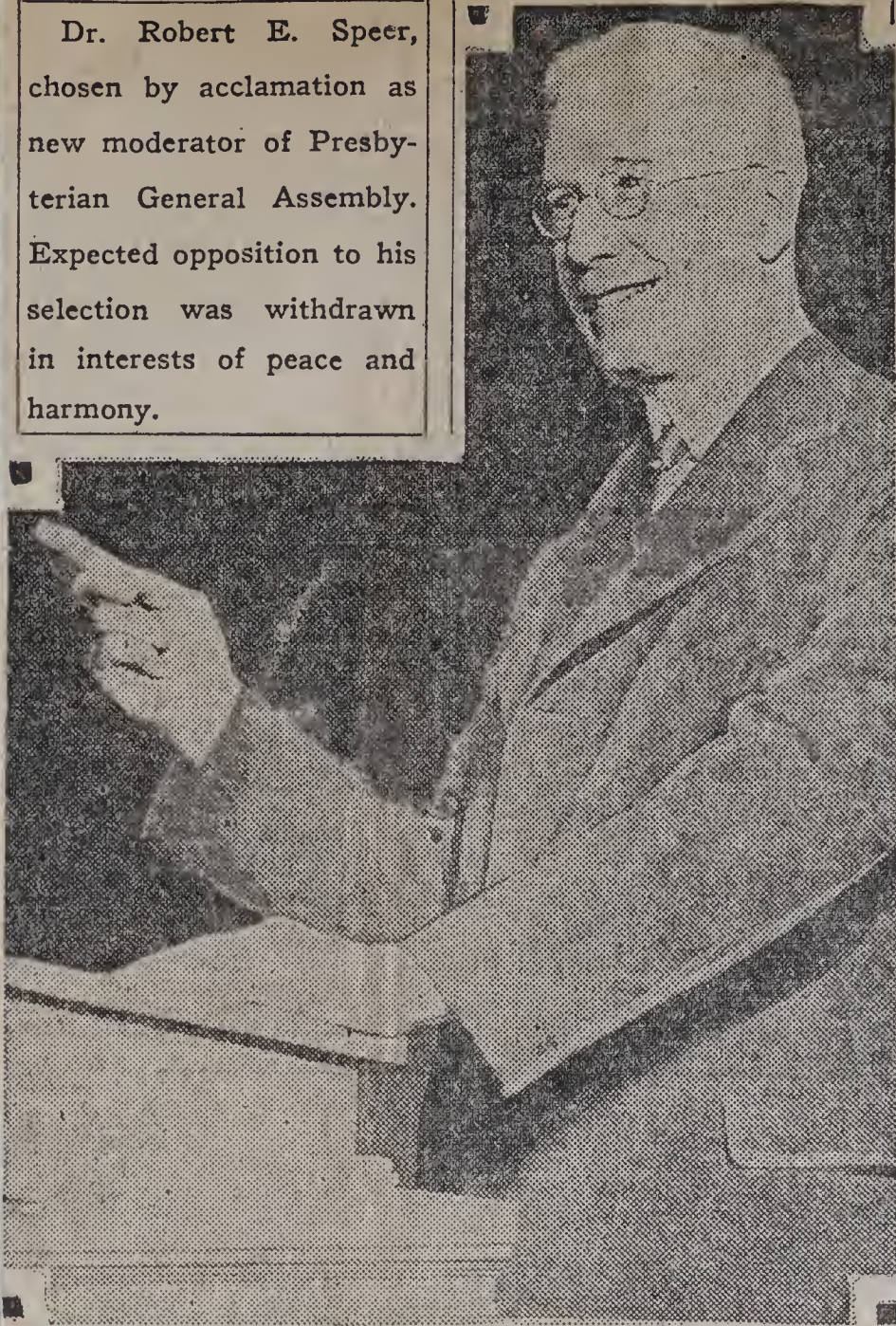
H. S. Prentice Nichols, chief counsel of Pennsylvania Railroad, of Philadelphia.

Judge Warner E. Settle, former Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals of Frankfort, Ky.

Professor Ernest B. Skinner, Madison, Wis.

New Church Head Hailed as Greatest Christian Statesman

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
chosen by acclamation as
new moderator of Presby-
terian General Assembly.
Expected opposition to his
selection was withdrawn
in interests of peace and
harmony.



TELLS MISSIONARIES RELIGION IS ON TRIAL

**Dr. Speer Declares Christianity
Everywhere Must Battle
With Agnosticism.**

OPENS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Presbyterian Moderator Announces
Assignments of New Workers
In Foreign Fields.**

Non-Christian religions throughout the world are breaking down, and Christianity everywhere must combat agnosticism, said Dr. Robert E. Speer, new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, yesterday, in his first public address here since his recent election by acclamation at San Francisco.

Dr. Speer spoke at the opening of the thirtieth annual conference of newly appointed and furloughed missionaries with the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, at the Presbyterian Building, which will be in session through next Tuesday. Participating in the conference were the newly appointed missionaries of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America, and of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the latter for the first time.

Dr. Speer spoke particularly of China, from which he returned recently, but he said his observations also applied to other countries. He said that the beginnings of a great dissolution were taking place in China, that the barriers of distance were coming down, and that the world had become plastic, ready to be shaped by good or evil.

"The world today is standing at the crossroads in regard to its social organization," he said. "We face a world in the valley of decision—a world that is taking tremendous chances. It is a world of very much deeper religious need than the world that went before. We look on a world that is very baffled and bewildered.

Sees a Clear Issue.

"All over the world today we see the breaking down of all other religions. And now it is going to be the Christian religion or no religion whatever. It is a clear issue between Christianity and agnosticism. The only answer that can be given to the religious need of the new world is the answer of Christ and His living Gospel. And we here today are asked to fling our lives into an enormously persuasive movement. They never fail who die in a great cause."

Dr. Speer said it was the task of the Christian Church to "save China's best past for the China of years to come," and that the Presbyterian Church had greater resources than any church excepting the Catholic. He said he was not worried by present conditions in China, with missions destroyed and missionaries dispersed. The Presbyterian Church had traveled the same road before in the Boxer rebellion,

he said, and it was not afraid for the future. "You and I are citizens of something more than the present-day world," he said. "We are working for Jesus Christ, who is 'the same yesterday, today and forever.'" Other speakers were the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Brown, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board; Dr. Galen F. Scudder, medical missionary to India; B. A. Garside of China and the Rev. Joseph McNeill of Africa. At this morning's session one of the speakers will be the Rev. Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, which was under fire recently at the General Assembly.

The newly appointed missionaries and their destinations are as follows:

PRESBYTERIAN.

AFRICA—Mrs. James B. Allen, the Rev. Irvin L. Young.
CHINA—Roy L. Creighton, Mrs. Roy L. Creighton, Harold E. Henke, M. D., Mrs. Harold E. Henke, R. N., the Rev. Willard L. Miller, the Rev. Harry E. Shaw, Miss Hazel E. Shaw, William H. Turner Jr., M. D., Mrs. William H. Turner.
CENTRAL CHINA—Miss Loretta Crawford.
KIANGAN—Miss Dorothy L. Clawson, R. N., Miss Margaret C. Smith, R. N., Miss Eleanor M. Wright.
SHANTUNG—Arabella S. Gault, M. D., Miss Esther R. Irwin.
CHOSEN—John A. McAnlis, D. D. S., Mrs. John A. McAnlis, R. N.
NORTH INDIA—Miss Sadie E. Johnson, the

Rev. Kenneth L. Parker, Mrs. Kenneth L. Parker.
PUNJAB—Miss Estella C. Clark, R. N., Miss Ruth E. Merrill.
WEST INDIA—Miss Margaret H. Duke, Miss M. Ruth Grierson, Miss Dorothy J. Riddag.
JAPAN—Nathan T. Helm, Mrs. Nathan T. Helm, the Rev. Warren S. Reeve, the Rev. Martel A. Tremain, Mrs. Martel A. Tremain.
SOUTH BRAZIL—Jess W. Wyant, Mrs. Jess W. Wyant.
CHILE—Miss Rose L. Paden, R. N.
COLOMBIA—Miss Miriam B. Dickason, Fred J. Plachy, Mrs. Fred J. Plachy, Rev. Pryor T. Smith, Mrs. Pryor T. Smith.
GUATEMALA—The Rev. Edmond G. Dyett, Mrs. Redmond G. Dyett, Miss Ellen T. Wilson, R. N.
MEXICO—Miss Mary E. Ewing.
VENEZUELA—The Rev. J. F. Davenport, Mrs. J. F. Davenport.
EAST PERSIA—Miss Martha C. Madory, Miss Elisabeth M. Reynolds, the Rev. T. Cuyler Young.
WEST PERSIA—The Rev. Klair L. Armstrong, Miss Bessie G. Cunningham, Miss Frances T. Wooding, R. N., Robert N. Wright, M. D., Mrs. Robert N. Wright.
PHILIPPINES—Miss Gertrude McLaurin, the Rev. Albert J. Sanders, Mrs. Albert J. Sanders, Miss B. Theresa Wells, R. N.
SIAM—John V. Horst, M. D., Mrs. John V. Horst, the Rev. Kenneth P. Landon, Mrs. Kenneth P. Landon, the Rev. Kenneth E. Wells, Mrs. Kenneth E. Wells.
SYRIA—F. Laurence White, Mrs. F. Laurence White.
REAPPOINTED—Chosen Mission, Mrs. Alfred M. Sharrocks, Rev. George S. McCune, D. D. and Mrs. George S. McCune; India Mission, Harriet Davies, M. D.; Slam Mission, Gilbert O. Robinson and Mrs. Gilbert O. Robinson.

Special Term Missionaries.

AFRICA—Miss Helen L. Moore, Rene Ryter, Miss May A. Frommel.
CHILE—Robert M. Duncan, George W. Jacobs, Frederick M. Park.
COLOMBIA—Miss Lella W. Quinby.
INDIA—Miss Sara M. Higgins, Harold W. Wright, Benton B. Owen.
JAPAN—Albertus V. King.
PERSIA—Charles A. F. Hoffman, Miss Helen B. Rose.
SIAM—Miss Edna M. Eakin.
SYRIA—Miss Elva E. Beck, Howard M. Liechty, Eli Stoltzfus.

REFORMED CHURCH.

CHINA—Russell Damstra (short term).
INDIA—Martin De Wolf.
JAPAN—George W. Lagg, Miss Mildred Hubbel.
ARABIA—Miss Esther I. Barny, M. D., William Harold Storm, M. D., Miss J. Victoria Foster.

BAPTIST.

SOUTH INDIA—The Rev. Paul J. Braisted, Mrs. Paul J. Braisted.
BURMA—The Rev. Frederick R. Bruce, Mrs. Frederick R. Bruce.
ASSAM—Dr. E. Sheldon Downs, Miss Gladys M. Hall.
AFRICA—The Rev. Henry Duncan Brown, Miss D. Ethel White.
UNDESIGNATED—The Rev. Marlin D. Farnum, Mrs. Marlin D. Farnum, Miss Muriel Martin.

Harmonious Presbyterians.

In marked contrast to the stormy debates of last year the Presbyterian (U. S. A.) general assembly has just concluded at San Francisco a session remarkable for its spirit of brotherly love and its comparative harmony. The election of Dr. Robert E. Speer, perhaps the most distinguished layman of the denomination in America, as moderator, was of itself proof of the purpose of the delegates to adjust as far as possible, as became the members of the great church, issues that have in the past so threatened their peace and amity. No Presbyterian is perhaps more orthodox than Dr. Speer yet he is of that type of militant Christians who would forget the things behind to press on to victories ahead. He is really a great ecclesiastical statesman and necessarily used all of his tact and diplomacy to steer the assembly clear of those internal disputes which, if aired, must inevitably weaken its practical usefulness. He is strong for the essentials and in their interest willing to make concessions.

The reports submitted during the year showed splendid and most gratifying progress in all of the varied fields of church activities, but perhaps the best was that made by Will H. Hayes, chairman of the special committee, appointed to secure an endowment of \$15,000,000, for the superannuated and worn out preachers of the church. Not counting pledges he reported that \$15,045,000 had already been raised. The proceeds from this endowment will be used as a pension fund for those who have grown old in the service. There are few more pathetic, even tragic figures in life than the old, neglected, worn out preachers living in poverty because no church wants them. Few men above sixty are ever "called" to a church. The congregation and the board generally want a "younger man." Not many of the old fellows ever received compensation sufficient to enable them to provide for old age. They are at the mercy of funds, often wholly inadequate, raised annually for their support. With a permanent endowment fund they can be assured better and more stable support.

The ease with which so large a sum was obtained for a purpose so unselfish and that could appeal only to the higher and better nature of man, is of itself pretty conclusive proof that the church does have a great hold on mankind and that the spiritual appeal is not yet made in vain. It is much easier to get funds for something concrete and tangible, like an educational institution or a handsome church edifice than it is for a purely humanitarian purpose. It is therefore a matter of deep gratification to Christians of all denominations that this huge fund for so noble a purpose, has been obtained.

An assembly hearing a report of this kind would assuredly have been the most inappropriate place in the world to have been disturbed by the threatened debate and division over "fundamentalism" and "modernism." There is enough of appeal in the basic and spiritual forces of Christianity to make a common meeting place for all, without airing difference over nonessentials.

Washburn Standard Jan 11, 27

Judge John De Witt

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Robert E. Speer Missionary Statesman

*Secretary Presbyterian Board of
Foreign Missions Since 1891*

*Moderator Presbyterian
General Assembly 1927*

Published by General Assembly's
Publicity Department—518 Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Penna.
Walter Irving Clarke, Manager

The material assembled in this booklet is designed to bring together into one convenient form information concerning Dr. Robert Elliott Speer, for many years secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and Moderator of the 1927 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. at San Francisco.

There is a large demand from all over the field for such a pamphlet as this in connection with the world-wide work of the church and various phases of its local programme.

Dr. Speer has always been consistently diffident concerning his own personality as related to the promotion of the church. He has steadfastly clung to a personal prejudice against modern publicity. During my term of office as national publicity director for the Presbyterian Church, now entering on the ninth year, I have respected Dr. Speer's personal feelings. But today he belongs to the church, and the church insists upon definite and detailed information concerning the first layman who was ever elected Moderator of the General Assembly unanimously, by acclamation, and without one opposing nominee.

WALTER IRVING CLARKE.



This likeness of Dr. Robert E. Speer was photographed immediately after his election as Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco, 1927. Thanks are due to The Presbyterian Magazine for the loan of this cut, which first appeared in the pages of that official medium of the Presbyterian Boards.



Dr. Speer as a Student

On page 6 of this booklet Dr. Hunter refers to the current issue of *The Intercollegian* as printing a youthful portrait of Dr. Speer in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Student Christian Movement. We asked the editor of *The Intercollegian* to lend us that cut. Because it was in much demand elsewhere, there was considerable difficulty in obtaining it; but, thanks to M. H. Blank of the Student Department of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the U. S. A., New York City, we are privileged to use the cut in column 1 of this page. Inasmuch as the cut is the property of the Student Volunteer Movement, we are grateful also to that organization and to Jesse Wilson of its New York offices.

Robert Elliott Speer was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1867, the son of Hon. Robert Milton and Martha Ellen McMurtrie Speer. He married Miss Emma Doll Bailey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1893. Their children are Elliott, Margaret, Eleanor (deceased),



Constance and William. Mr. Speer received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh in 1910 and the degree of LL.D. from Rutgers in 1920. He has been Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions since 1891. His home is in Englewood, New Jersey, and his headquarters are at the Presbyterian Building, 156 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y.

The picture in column 2 of this page shows Dr. Speer as he appeared in his earlier days in the secretarial work of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. We are indebted for this cut to Miss Neva Palmeter, Office Secretary of the New York State Christian Endeavor Union at Buffalo. It is reprinted from *The Empire State Endeavorer* for May-June, 1927, in connection with the fact that Dr. Speer was one of the leading speakers at the State Christian Endeavor Convention.

(From *The Presbyterian Magazine*, July, 1927.)

Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., the Moderator of General Assembly, cannot be introduced to the Presbyterian Church. He is built into the church as into many national and international Christian movements.

Minister Appraises Moderator

Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter of Berkeley, California, was chairman of the local publicity committee for the 1927 General Assembly at San Francisco. His advance publicity work was remarkably efficient and thorough. At the close of the Assembly he delivered a sermon in St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, which contains an excellent biographical review of Moderator Speer. It is reproduced herewith from the columns of The Daily Gazette of Berkeley as printed therein on Monday, June 6, 1927:

"Dr. Robert E. Speer and the Recent Presbyterian General Assembly," was the sermon subject of Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. Dr. Hunter spoke first of the adoption of the report of the special commission of 1925 which declared "never was there a clearer or more commanding call that the church advance in her organized corporate work at home and on foreign fields." He then showed that in Dr. Speer a leader for this advance has been found. His address follows:

The election of Dr. Robert E. Speer, senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, as Moderator on May 26, was the outstanding event of the 139th Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco. Dr. Speer was literally drafted for the service for he previously declined to allow his name to be presented for the honor. From all over the country there had come requests that he accept this office. When the Assembly met all those whose names had previously been suggested withdrew and Dr. Speer was nominated by a Philadelphia layman, Mr. J. Willison Smith, an elder in St. Paul Church, who spoke appreciatively of the influence which Dr. Speer had exerted upon him in his early manhood. The seconding speech was by Dr. Hugh K. Walker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, whose friends

also had been advocating his selection as Moderator.

Dr. Speer presided over the week's sessions with great tact and ability, and the addresses which he gave were marked by spiritual fervor and true eloquence. On several occasions he revealed great versatility. When the clerk of the Synod of Mexico spoke to the Assembly through an interpreter, Dr. Speer replied to him in Spanish. The next greeting was read by a missionary from Korea who represented the General Assembly of the church in that country. It was suggested that Dr. Speer reply in Korean to this. He mentioned the fact that he had been present at the last meeting of the General Assembly of the Korean Church in which the man who was appointed Moderator sought in every possible way to avoid the honor and was only prevailed upon to accept when his brethren claimed that his two years of prison experience had made the choice most fitting. Dr. Speer added that he had been in prison for "the faith."

When he was inducted into office he declared: "I have earnestly hoped and prayed that this might not be done, that you might have found some one else far more worthy and far more capable to serve the church. Of all the good friends whose names have been suggested there is not one who is not a dear personal friend, and each could serve the church better than I. More and more as the

years go by, one comes to see that the strength of every church lies in its pastors. No church can do too much to glorify and dignify the task of the pastor. I had hoped that you might have chosen a pastor, a leader of a definite flock. He ought to be an old pastor, if possible an old country pastor who had toiled in some quiet place. It would be a joy to lift such an one into this highest honor, an accomplishment of our belated obligations. Now at the 125th anniversary of our work of National Missions, it would have been fitting to have chosen for Moderator an old home missionary pastor as we meet here on the westernmost frontier of our land. I feel by your choice of me that this Assembly wants to bear a sure and clear testimony, to assert to the whole world in these days of unrest and upheaval and of questioning, in clear and unequivocal terms, the deathless tenacity by which we intend to hold to our missionary obligation and purpose. We want also to show the indissoluble unity of our fellowship. We are not divided. We mean to find the way through our difficulties in loyalty to our convictions and our Lord. I ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit may come upon us and guide us in this first hour until the last. Personally I feel the deepest unworthiness in standing here, but I accept this honor for the Presbytery of Jersey City which has never had a Moderator, and for the Presbytery of my boyhood."

Boyhood Influences

Hereupon Dr. Speer paid a beautiful tribute to the little Pennsylvania church in "Huntington among the Hills." The pastor of that church for the last twenty years, Rev. R. P. Daubenspeck, who was sitting as a commissioner, was one of the happiest men in the assembly. He told me later that although that church of 600 members was organized one hundred and thirty-eight years ago, just a year after the meeting of the first General Assembly, it had been served by only eight pastors. He spoke of the great honor in which Dr. Speer is held in that community, and referred to the godly influence of Judge R. M. Speer, a trustee of the church, who brought

up his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. At the closing session of the Assembly as the Moderator pleaded for a renewed devotion to the family altar, he referred to the work of his father who had his children first of all learn the Infant Catechism, then the Shorter Catechism, and finally the Larger Catechism. As a lad of fifteen when he went off to school he knew a great many of the Psalms by heart, as well as the Genesis story of creation. He told also the influence of a Bible text that stood above the chancel of the old church of his boyhood, as he spoke of the need of greater reverence in our modern religious life. It was—"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Another text similarly placed in the recess of the church of his boyhood was "Holiness becometh Thy house forever."

All over the Assembly among the five hundred ministerial and five hundred lay delegates there sat many men who could testify to the quickening influence which Dr. Speer's address had brought them in times past. On next September 10, 1927, he will be sixty years old. For the last forty years he has been constantly speaking to great multitudes of people. Before he was graduated from Princeton in 1889, in the same class with Lewis Seymour Mudge who stood beside him on the platform as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, he was active in intercollegiate Christian work. In the current number of "The Intercollegian," which is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Student Christian movement, is a youthful portrait of him. Although time has left the marks of gray on his temples, he still speaks with youthful fervor and power. Dr. Speer stands well over six feet in height and has kept the athletic figure of his football days. In those foot hills of Pennsylvania one of his boyhood diversions was running through the forests and beating the deer out of their coverts into the runways where the hunters awaited them.

Missionary Journeys

That rigorous training has stood him in good stead, for in his missionary journeys he has been called upon

to endure hardships. In 1896 he visited Persia, India, China, Korea, and Japan, and in 1899 went to South America. In 1915 he went to Siam as well as China and the Philippines, and in 1921 journeyed again through India and Persia. In 1926 he visited China and Japan. Practically all of the out of the way mission stations of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in sixteen countries have been studied at first hand. On these journeys he has amazed his missionary companions who are accustomed to the strange food and the inconvenience of travel by his adaptability to strange conditions. On many of these journeys he has walked long distances in preference to other means of transportation. There is in Berkeley today a retired missionary from Persia who is proud of the care which he was able to extend to Dr. Speer in 1896 in his own home when he nursed him through an attack of typhoid fever. The dedication of his book "Missions and Politics in Asia," in gratitude was "to the missionaries of Hamadan, Persia." His associates on these travels have often been surprised at the hard course of reading which he sets himself to accomplish. He keeps abreast of the best in modern literature, averaging two books a week. Through the careful husbanding of every moment of his time he has been able to write more than twenty volumes. It is characteristic of him that his first book written in 1896 is "The Man Christ Jesus." Some of his most popular volumes have been biographical sketches of missionaries. His book on Dr. Cochrane of Persia,—"A Memorial of a True Life"—was the first of this nature. In 1903 after the Boxer uprising he wrote the memorial of Horace Tracy Pitkin. In 1914 he published his book, "Studies in Missionary Leadership," included in which is a sketch of Walter Lowrie, his predecessor in the work of the secretaryship of the board, and five other missionary statesmen. In 1911 he wrote the study book, "The Light of the World," which reveals

a wide acquaintance and correspondence with the leaders of the Christian church in non-Christian lands.

Outstanding Missionary Statesman

Dr. Speer's writings have made him the outstanding missionary statesman in the world today. No man living has more friends, in India, China and Japan, and indeed in all parts of the world, than he. They are the kind of friends who pray for him daily.

Some occupy high administrative posts; many are humble and lowly people. In his book on "The Stuff of Manhood," the Merrick Lectures in Ohio State University for 1917, he declares:

"Every one ought to roughen life by friendships that will bring into it those influences which are not naturally in our daily associations and will carry us into contact with men and women who struggle harder than we do. A few such friendships will help to keep life from petrification and to make us aware that the world is under a cross, and that our hearts must be as open to all its needs as the heart of the Father of human life is open always."

At the recent Presbyterian General Assembly he seemed able to call by name nearly every commissioner who rose to speak. In missionary homes throughout the world his name is a household word. Thousands of people in the Orient think of America in the light of their knowledge of him. In the closing moments of the General Assembly he spoke of the influence of Henry Clay Trumbull upon his own life, and his book on "Friendship" he declared to be the best.

Mr. Speer, as he prefers to be known, is a layman. He was called in 1891 to the Board of Foreign Missions before graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary and has never been ordained. In 1910 at the time of the great world missionary conference in Edinburgh, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him, but it was only after the repeated urging of his friends, like Dr. John R. Mott, that he could be prevailed upon to accept this honor. I saw there in Edinburgh in the sessions of that great mission-

ary conference how he was regarded by the authorities in other churches.

Mr. Speer was married on April 20, 1893, to Miss Emma Bailey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who was an under-graduate at Bryn Mawr College. For the last twenty-one years she has been a member of the National Board of the Young Woman's Christian Association, and has occupied the position of president of the board since 1915. Their eldest son Elliott is now head of the schools at Northfield, Mass., founded by Dwight L. Moody, where Dr. Speer has so often spoken at summer conferences. A daughter, Margaret, is a missionary in Yeng Ching University, Peking, China, and another son and daughter are studying in this country.

An Interdenominational Leader

Although a denominational secretary, Dr. Speer has been a great worker for inter-church causes. Six years ago he was elected president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, and for four years afforded excellent leadership to this great organization giving himself tirelessly to the prosecution of its ends. During the war period he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Religious and Moral Activities of the army and navy, one of his responsibilities being the selection and preparation of literature which the Young Men's Christian Association distributed widely. Favorable mention is made of his services in the history of the Y. M. C. A. war work. Dr. Speer has been one of the leaders in the Student Christian Movement and has spoken at most of the Student Volunteer Conventions of recent years. His book, "Of One Blood," published in 1924 by the Missionary Education Movement and the Council of Women for Home Missions, was used in thousands of churches. The opening sentences of this book are typical of Mr. Speer's general view point:

"The deepest conviction back of this book is that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is the one solution of the race problem as of every other moral and social problem. He came

to be the Saviour of the world and to establish on earth the Kingdom of God. Race wrong and injustice are sin, and Christ came to save man from sin, the sin of each man and the sin of the race. When all men, or enough men, love and obey Him, race misunderstanding and maladjustment will come to an end, and all peoples will walk and work together in peace and unity. These pages begin with this conviction and end with it."

Some of Dr. Speer's best known books are collected character sketches of modern Christians, "men who have been found faithful." In a book by this title he gives the life story of General Armstrong and Dr. H. C. Trumbull. Others described are John Lawrence Thurston, Henry Dickinson Smith, Samuel Mills, Neesima, James Chalmers, John Leete Rogers, Harold Arthur Watres, Wallace Somerville Faris, Peter Carter, Arthur Tappan Pierson, William Rogers Richards.

In this book he says: "These sketches of real men show that the same Power which worked upon life and character in the first Christian century is at work in the world today. The idea that Christ cannot do as much for us now as He used to do for men, and that He is not doing as much now as ever in the history of the world, is a mistaken idea." From these books it is easy to find who his heroes are—many a schoolboy has learned to love General Gordon because of him.

When I asked one of his colleagues who was in attendance at the Assembly what he thought was an outstanding characteristic of Dr. Speer, he referred me to the first chapter in his book, "The Stuff of Manhood." This first chapter is entitled, "Discipline and Austerity." This is a chapter with many quotable sentences, but we must content ourselves with this:

"All men and women who want to be masters of their lives and to have strength to lay beneath the work of the world must ask God that such discipline may be given to them. Not alone is this the only kind of train-

ing that can produce this kind of character, but unless a man learns control from without, he will never learn self-control. Unless he passes under the discipline of a wiser and stronger hand at the beginning, he will never come to the time of deliberate and moral self-discipline, which alone is character. For this only is character—the binding of life beneath the firm sovereignty of the principle that is the heart of God.”

His Deep Spirituality

The abiding impression which Dr. Speer leaves on all those with whom he comes in contact is not so much his great intellectuality, his moving eloquence, his administrative and executive ability, his genius for friendship, as it is his deep and abiding spirituality. His prayers reveal a soul sensitive to God’s presence and wide open to His influence. Journeying across San Francisco Bay with him on the ferry boat, I ventured to ask him his favorite hymns. I think that the five which he mentioned reveal a great deal of his own religious life. He spoke first of Oliver Wendell Holmes’:

“Lord of all being thronged afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!”

This is a hymn which inculcates reverence. Next he referred to John Ellerton’s hymn, “The day Thou gavest, Lord, is Ended.” This is a missionary hymn as these last three verses show:

“As o’er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
For dies the strain of praise away.

The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
Our brethren ’neath the western
sky,

And hour by hour fresh lips are mak-
ing

Thy wondrous doings heard on
high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall
never,

Like earth’s proud empires, pass
away;

But stand, and rule, and grow for
ever,

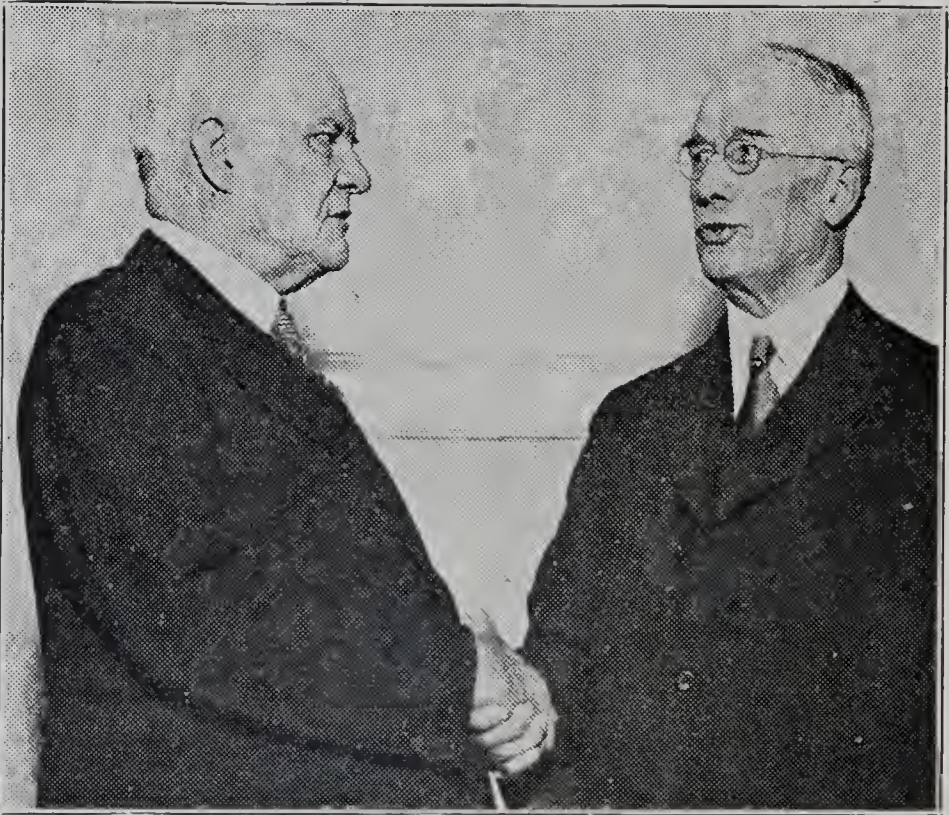
Till all Thy creatures own Thy
sway.”

He told me how five years ago on that arduous journey through Persia when his wagon was snow bound and he had to wait for over a day and a night in a miserable Persian khan, he pieced together this hymn line by line and rejoiced that he was able finally to have it complete. Another favorite hymn he said is “O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling” of Mary Ann Thomson. This is one of the best modern hymns of missions and stewardship with a ringing appeal to the church. Lastly he mentioned Faber’s “Faith of Our Fathers!”

His Closing Suggestions

Dr. Speer in bringing the 139th Presbyterian General Assembly to a close made five great suggestions to his fellow commissioners. “Our first great obligation,” said he, “this coming year is to be in our own lives loyal disciples of Jesus Christ. The next is the preservation of our great Presbyterian home inheritance in the midst of the challenging conditions of the modern world.”

He pleaded for grace at the family meal, the training of the children at the family altar, and the inculcating of higher ideals for home life. Third he pleaded for more reverence and beauty in religion. “Our fathers were reverent men,” said he, “they treated sacred things as sacred; they had a love of true beauty, which is the beauty of holiness. Do not let beauty and reverence get out of our homes and churches.” His fourth word was for better intellectual equipment with which to set forth the great convictions of Christian faith. “We have an intellectual battle on our hands in this modern world,” he declared. “We believe not in blindness, but reasonably; we must know our foundations.” Lastly he urged the setting of the ideal and the obligation of evangelism in its rightful place.



This photograph, showing the new Moderator, Dr. Speer, being received by the retiring Moderator, Dr. William O. Thompson, is a close-up of a portion of a group photograph reproduced on the opposite page. Thanks are due to The Daily Gazette of Berkeley, California, and to The Presbyterian Advance for the use of this cut, in whose columns it first appeared. Thanks are also due to Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter for facilitating the loan of the cut.

The following material refers to the cut on the opposite page:

(From the Presbyterian Magazine, July, 1927.)

Moderator-elect Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., is presented to retiring Moderator Rev. William Oxley Thompson, D.D., LL.D., by Elder J. Willison Smith of Philadelphia Presbytery. Numerous friends in the larg-

est of Synods, Pennsylvania, had advocated the nomination of Mr. Smith for Moderator. He declined to have his name presented and nominated Dr. Speer. This action, together with the seconding of the nomination by Rev. Hugh K. Walker, D.D., who was also mentioned for the office, was a big factor in making the election of Dr. Speer unanimous by acclamation. Mr. Smith is chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of General Council and was chairman of Assembly's Standing Committee on Ministerial Relief and Sustentation. He had much to do with the inception and completion of the New Service Pension Plan. At home he is an elder and superintendent of Sunday-school in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and President of the West End Trust Company. Like Elder Will H. Hays he has done much for the church they love and serve.



The new Moderator, Dr. Robert E. Speer, is here shown shaking hands with the retiring Moderator, Dr. William O. Thompson, after being conducted to the platform by Mr. J. Willison Smith, who nominated Dr. Speer for the office. In further explanation of this picture a short article is reprinted on page 10 from The Presbyterian Magazine, which loaned the use of this cut.



Dr. Robert E. Speer has always been camera-shy; but when he was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, newspaper cameras bombarded him from every side and as many as 80 exposures by flashlight resulted. That Moderator Speer yielded gracefully and with patience to this ordeal is manifest by his expression in this picture, which was one of the many newspaper snapshots. We are indebted to The Presbyterian Advance for the loan of this cut.

Moderator Speer in Action at General Assembly

The following facts concerning Moderator Speer's work at the Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco are reprinted from various issues of Presbyterian General Assembly Daily News, which is issued by General's Assembly's Publicity Department under the editorship of Walter Irving Clarke:

The 139th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. held its first business session in the Civic Auditorium Thursday afternoon, May 26.

Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., of Englewood, New Jersey, senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, was unanimously elected Moderator without opposition.

Mr. J. Willison Smith of Philadelphia, President of the West End Trust Company of that city, made the nominating speech. The seconding speech was made by Dr. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles.

Mr. Smith said that it was an unusual privilege for him to come from the City of Brotherly Love to nominate for Moderator one who was raised in the foothills of Pennsylvania and one who did not really need a nominating speech. The candidate he would name had served the church faithfully and well in the name of Christ, and had received the call for service in the path of duty before he had finished his studies for the ministry. He had recognized the call to paramount service for the Master and had not only enlisted many other men and women into the service of the Lord but himself had been listened to in countless addresses expressing his consecrated and earnest devotion to the Christian faith. Mr. Smith referred to his own personal experience of 25 years ago when this nominee

had touched his life and awakened it to a deeper interest in the cause of the great Board which he represented. The man whose name he wished to present was an executive and administrator, a world scholar, and an ambassador of Jesus Christ, known, esteemed and loved throughout the world, for his deep Christian character and for his fitness for any office within the authority of the General Assembly to bestow. He was therefore honored to present the name of him who had for many years been a secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. Robert E. Speer.

At the mention of Dr. Speer's name, the entire body of commissioners, numbering nearly 1000 men, rose to their feet and applauded continuously.

Dr. Walker stated that he was glad to follow Mr. Smith, who himself had served the church as few had served it in recent years. He said that Dr. Speer was one of the best known and best loved men as well as one of the most efficient and ablest laymen in the Protestant Church in America. He referred to the action of the University of Edinburgh in granting the degree of Doctor of Divinity to Robert E. Speer notwithstanding the fact that he was not a Reverend, the only case that he knew of in history of a layman being thus honored. He regarded Dr. Speer, and many regarded him, as the most outstanding Protestant on

the American continent. He was a missionary statesman whose name was a household word in mission stations around the world. One of Dr. Speer's daughters was still serving the Master in far-away war-riven China. The election of Dr. Speer as Moderator would honor in constructive fashion the overtures which had come up from the presbyteries for a crusade for evangelism. Under his leadership the church would be united as it had not been for years and would go forward to the greatest constructive year in its history.

Dr. Walter B. Greenway of Philadelphia moved that the nominations be closed and that the Stated Clerk be authorized to cast the ballot electing Dr. Speer by the unanimous vote of the Assembly.

Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, Stated Clerk, announced that the ballot was so cast.

The retiring Moderator, Dr. W. O. Thompson, appointed Mr. J. Willison Smith and Dr. Hugh K. Walker as a committee of two to escort Dr. Speer to the platform. Dr. Thompson welcomed Dr. Speer as his successor, as a friend and beloved brother and as a servant approved of God. Dr. Thompson spoke of Dr. Speer as one of the three or four if not the first Christian statesman in American today. He considered that the church had honored itself in calling Dr. Speer to this office. He handed the new Moderator the official copy of the rules, which he confessed that he himself had not read, and which he trusted Dr. Speer would have no occasion to read. He handed him the gavel, which he knew he would not abuse as a symbol of office and authority. He knew that Dr. Speer would peacefully wield the gavel successfully in the best interests of a united church.

Dr. Speer said that he was not insensible to the great honor accorded him, but that it had been his earnest hope and prayer that another candidate would be found for the Moderatorship. He had rather hoped that the Moderator would be found among the working pastors of the church, a leader of a definite flock. More and more as the years went by he had come to realize that the strength of the church lay in the pastors. The church could not do too much to rec-

ognize and to dignify and glorify the pastorate, which was the highest and best of all the services of the church throughout the world. He felt also that the Moderator ought to be an old pastor, and preferably an old country pastor, who had toiled through a generation or two of men and who would properly be honored in being lifted from a field of quietness to a place of highest honor. Preferably also he should be an old home missions pastor, particularly at this time of the 125th anniversary of the National Board, to bear clear and sure testimony, in unequivocal terms, assuring the whole world in these days of unrest and upheaval in foreign lands that the church was clinging with deathless tenacity to its world-wide enterprises in the cause of Christ, and that we intend to hold fast to our own missionary purposes and obligations. We must as a church enable the whole world to discern us as devoting ourselves afresh to our sacred duty of extending the Christian faith to all mankind. Dr. Speer urged the Assembly in its proceedings to bear witness to the indissoluble unity of our fellowship. We must be one body in a great forward movement in the name of the Master. He felt like referring personally and particularly to two presbyteries. He thanked the Assembly for his own Presbytery of Jersey City, from which no Moderator had ever before been chosen. And then there was the dear old presbytery in the hills of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, to which his heart went back over a memory of 50 years. He felt that among the faithful, devoted body of consecrated men and women who had gone up higher from that presbytery, there must today be rejoicing that their old presbytery had thus been signally honored. And then there was another hill to which one's thoughts turned on this Ascension Day, and in connection with that hill he referred to the Man of Galilee, and he urged that all reconsecrate themselves anew to bearing testimony to the lifting up of Jesus Christ among us so as to make him known throughout the world and to bring all men unto Him.

The Assembly extended a unanimous rising vote of thanks and of ap-

preciation to the fine spirit manifested by those who nominated Dr. Speer.

When the General Assembly at its final session Wednesday morning had listened to the reading of the minutes for Tuesday, some question arose as to the item covering the action concerning the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission in Case 1. Reference was made to parliamentary confusion which had attended consideration of this particular case.

Moderator Speer addressed to the Assembly a frank and fervent statement of his own state of mind concerning this matter. He said that he felt that mistakes had been made on all sides, freely admitted his own, and asked forgiveness. He considered that attempts to open up the matter anew might result in leading the Assembly into deeper water. He therefore earnestly suggested that it all be left to the Lord. Dr. Speer put the whole matter on a deep spiritual basis and made a most profound, in fact solemn, impression upon the Assembly.

The effect was the adoption of the minutes, including the item about Judicial Case 1, by an unanimous vote.

A resolution was suggested from the floor to the effect that this disposal of Case 1 should in no way be construed as calling into question the faith of the Assembly concerning the Virgin Birth.

Moderator Speer immediately responded by quoting the Apostles'

Creed. As he uttered the passage committing the speaker to faith in the Virgin Birth, all of the commissioners rose to their feet, and the mover of the resolution stated that he accepted that as the Assembly's unanimous vote for that portion of the Creed.

Many expressed the feeling that the Moderator's faith in God and in God's guidance, so deeply uttered, had carried the Assembly through what threatened to be a most trying ordeal.

On motion following a suggestion of the Moderator the Assembly committed to the General Council the task of studying carefully during the year the form of procedure in the consideration of judicial cases, to report what changes, if any, should be made, at the next General Assembly, since the parliamentary tangle of the day before had arisen largely because of the fact that this was the first time the new and difficult rules had been acted under. The new rules were designed originally to protect the rights of minorities and dissenting opinions.

The major part of the session was devoted to the Board of Foreign Missions. When that Board's period came, the entire Assembly rose to its feet as a token of appreciation and affection for Robert E. Speer as senior secretary of that Board.

Dr. Speer made a most eloquent address concerning the entire cause of foreign missions, and the Assembly voted that the Board be requested to publish it and send copies to all ministers and elders.

time what they wished would come—a union which would embrace all the Protestant and Evangelical Churches of Ireland”.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Presbyterian Church North,
U. S. A.

By Rev. Dr. R. G. MacBeth

It is always an honor to represent the Presbyterian Church anywhere in the world, and I appreciated the distinction of representing The Presbyterian Church in Canada at the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church North, U.S.A., which met in San Francisco at the end of May.

Great interest was taken by the citizens of San Francisco in the gathering and as no church building was large enough to hold the crowds that attended, the Civic Auditorium was placed at the disposal of the Assembly. It is a very big building, seating over 15,000 people, and on the missionary nights there were upwards of 10,000 people present. The same was true of the Sunday gatherings, though all the churches of the city, as well as Oakland, Berkley and other places were crowded and Commissioners occupied the pulpits. The Civic Auditorium is part of the Civic Centre, there being on one side of the square the great public library, and, on the other, the City Hall, whose vast dome was lit up every night in honor of the Assembly.

The thousand or more Commissioners of Assembly elected that remarkable missionary leader, Dr. Robert Speer, to the Moderatorship. He exercised throughout a masterly power to guide and direct, as well as control, the great gathering. Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, the highly capable Stated Clerk, had everything in perfect running order all through the Assembly.

The Assembly was preeminently a serious and successful gathering in the interests of peace and work. The big problems of Princeton Faculty and the general attitude of that noble old seminary were handled with consummate skill and fine spirit. No schism arose over the question. There seems no doubt that the members of the Faculty are all true to the Bible and the great evangelical mission of the Church, but some readjustment of the governing bodies of the seminary will be worked out by a special Committee and report made to next Assembly. At the conclusion of the matter, President Dr. Ross Stevenson assured the Assembly that Princeton would stand true to the Word of God and the programme of world evangelization.

A great event in the Assembly proceedings was the report presented by Mr. Will H. Hays, showing that the astonishing sum of more than fifteen million dollars had

been secured for the Ministers, Widows and Orphans Pension Fund. Mr. Hays was given an ovation and could scarcely keep his voice from breaking when he replied. He said it was the most important work of his life.

The mission nights were indicative of the world-wide influence exercised by the Church in the United States. Practically every large country was represented and no world happenings would be allowed to interfere with pressing forward in the work at home and abroad. Amongst the greetings brought to the Assembly was an address in Mexican by a native of that big country. The address was interpreted by a missionary and conveyed the good wishes of a Presbyterian Church of 25,000 members in Mexico. To the great delight of the Assembly and the delegates, Dr. Speer responded in a few kind words in the Mexican tongue.

I was introduced to the Assembly by Dr. Ross Stevenson who read to the gathering my commission to represent The Presbyterian Church in Canada. There was a hearty reception given. I made no reference to the Union question or to disruption, but simply spoke of The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a going concern, with the great purpose of helping to evangelize the world. It being Memorial Day, in the Assembly, I made brief allusion to the fact, and on behalf of Canadians united in the tribute paid to the men who had died for the freedom of the world.

Dr. Robert Speer replied most kindly and quoted in his reply the beautiful poem by Robert Louis Stevenson on his memory of Scotland, “where around the graves of the martyrs the whaups are crying, my heart remembers how.”

I met a good many former Canadians and other old friends who were most kind in every way; and I may add that a great many men from points all over the States came up to shake hands and express great satisfaction in the fact that The Presbyterian Church in Canada had kept steadily on her way and was living up to her great traditions.

Chronicle Herald June 25 '27

The Presbyterians at the Golden Gate

PRESBYTERIANISM came into America by the way of the Atlantic, through the Scotch, Irish and the Dutch. It has moved across the continent through the decades with measurably clear characteristics and has found a hospitable habitat on the Pacific Coast, whose California Synod is easily the most outstanding of all the forty-odd State units of the Presbyterian Church.

It was fitting that the 139th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church should have convened in San Francisco. This is the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the home missionary work of the Presbyterian Church, the fiftieth year of the organization of distinctive women's work, and the fiftieth year of the beginning of missionary work in Alaska. These three significant anniversaries made it particularly appropriate that the Pacific Coast, itself the last outpost of American Church extension and, in some ways, its finest flower of national missionary achievement, should become the host to this fine cross-section of American Christians. The Assembly never had a more hospitable host than the Golden Gate city, or more enjoyable sessions.

The General Assembly is a representative body of over 900 members, approximately half of them ministers and the other half ruling elders, elected to represent their constituencies in some 300 Presbyteries, with over 1,800,000 Church members. Although the Presbyterians are proud of their doctrine of the "parity of the clergy" or the equality of all its ministers, they are always proud when they choose their King. Think of it, a Presbyterian King in democratic America! Yes, a King. In order, however, that he and the world may know that he is only a temporary King, he is chosen for one year, given very limited powers, paid no salary whatever, and prevented by an unbroken tradition from ever becoming King again. Little peril even for democracy in that kind of a King!

ONE is justified in saying that in 139 years the Presbyterian Church never chose its King—the Moderator of the General Assembly—with more enthusiasm, determination and absolute unanimity than this year. Dr. Robert Elliott Speer, that peer of modern missionary statesmen, easily the most honored and most loved leader in the Presbyterian Church, was all but thrust into this high office. It is an open secret that he used every argument with his friends to prevent his election. He was unable, however, in all good conscience, to stem the tide of sentiment, and in response to his unanimous election accepted the trust with humility and fidelity. His administration, from the first falling of his gavel until the final words of dissolution "of the 139th General Assembly until another one called in like manner shall take its place," has been characterized with high purpose, unflinching courtesy and spiritual results.

The affairs of the Assembly have gathered largely about personalities and secondarily about issues.

In addition to the paramount influence of Dr. Speer, the distinguished retiring Moderator, President William O. Thompson, President Emeritus of Ohio State University, wielded a commanding presence. He was given an honorary degree by Occidental College, during the sessions of the General Assembly.

Not far distant in influence was Dr. Henry C. Swearingen of St. Paul, a former Moderator of the General Assembly, a member of the General Council and Chairman of its Special Commission of Fifteen, whose final report was unanimously approved by the General Assembly, although the latter contained men of widely divergent views. It is no exaggeration to say that constitutional government in the light of Presbyterian policy and practice, and which, incidentally, is very much akin to that of the

By Rev.

WILLIAM H. FOULKES, D.D.

nation itself, has never before in all its history received such a masterful interpretation as it had at the hands of Dr. Swearingen and his Commission. Liberty and Law, which are the bulwarks of constitutional Presbyterianism, were given such a thoroughgoing and detailed interpretation that it is doubtful if any controversy could possibly be awakened over the points that were settled by the action of the General Assembly in adopting the report of the Commission.

Another outstanding figure of the Assembly is that of its Stated Clerk or General Executive, Dr. Lewis S.



DR. ROBERT E. SPEER

Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly

Mudge. It is conceded by all comers that his technical and tactful administration is one of the largest factors in promoting the efficiency of this large body.

It would be invidious to name any others lest one should omit too many of real note. While the personnel of each Assembly differs from its predecessor, it is safe to say, from the viewpoint of one who has attended nearly a score, that this one had a larger proportion of real church leaders in its membership than any others in a decade.

The whole truth would require one to say, however, that the outstanding personality of the General Assembly was that of a layman, well-known in

America, Will H. Hays, the so-called motion-picture Czar. Mr. Hays came to the Assembly as an elder-Commissioner from his own Presbytery in Indiana. His purpose in coming was to announce the success of the Laymen's Committee in raising over fifteen millions of dollars and in thus launching the new Pension Plan.

THE General Assembly carried on its missionary and benevolence program with unusual enthusiasm. The leaders of the various Boards and Agencies of the Church made a telling presentation of their work. The four Boards, National Missions, Christian Education, Ministerial Pensions and Foreign Missions, which represent a recent consolidation of nearly a score of agencies, and after a period of readjustment, have been able to come through with a substantially level financial keel. The General Council has won increasing confidence for itself and has demonstrated the power of co-operative promotion under its general guidance. The financial program of the Boards, reaching an annual total of nearly ten million dollars, is only an index of the widespread range and the far-reaching spiritual activity of these agencies. The Presbyterian Church never faced the future with a more hopeful outlook for expanding success than it does today.

In addition to its missionary, educational and evangelistic activities, the General Assembly faced certain delicate and difficult administrative problems, chief of which was the situation at Princeton Theological Seminary. A Special Committee, with Dr. Thompson as Chairman, brought in a report which recommended a thorough reorganization of the Seminary and the refusal to confirm the appointment or promotion of any professors until the reorganization was effected. The report of the Committee was stoutly and persistently approved, but with a weakening registration. The final vote which continued and enlarged the Committee and sent it forward to its difficult task had only a slight negative element. It is hoped the work of the Committee may be so carried on that the breach in Princeton, which has been both humiliating and serious, may be fully healed.

The Assembly bore unmistakable witness to its unchanged conviction that the Eighteenth Amendment has come to stay, and voiced a most urgent appeal to its constituency to uphold the law and to support those appointed to enforce it.

THE most important constructive action of the General Assembly was in the issuance of a call to the whole Church to engage in a special season of penitence and prayer and in an effort to restore the spiritual tone of the Church and to fulfil its evangelistic mission.

If one might sum up the significance of the General Assembly's Sessions in San Francisco, he would say—an object lesson in Americanization to those who crossed the continent, the presence of a true spirit of good-will and peace, only infrequently imperiled; doctrinal loyalty to the constitutional standards of the Church but with scant interest in detailed and bickering controversy; the joy of a great achievement in raising a vast sum for the Pension Fund of the Church; an increasing recognition of the place of women and young people in the counsels of the Church, the heroic and steadfast support of great missionary projects at home and abroad, and in and through it all, a deep undercurrent of the most genuine loyalty and the most genuine liberty, both interpreted and resolved in the unifying love of Christ.

By every test, the 139th General Assembly was the most inspiring and noteworthy of any yet held.

Tulsa, Oklahoma, has set its stakes for 1928, when the 140th Assembly will convene.

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THE MODERATOR. *Civic Center*

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

WARM CONGRATULATIONS HOW PLEASED UNCLE RHEA WOULD HAVE BEEN.

MRS J C R EWING.

ENA265 51 BLUE. FB NEWYORK NY 27 321P

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DR ROBERT E SPEER.

STFRANCIS HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

WE SEND HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS AND REJOICE IN THIS RECOGNITION NOT ONLY OF PERSONAL ESTEEM BUT OF MISSIONARY CAUSE MAY YOUR STRENGTH BE EQUAL TO THE DEMANDS OF YOUR VISION FOR THE GROWING KINGDOM OF CHRIST WE PRAY THIS ELECTION MAY BE PLEDGE OF A NEW DAY FOR PRESBYTERIANS AND ALL CHRISTIANS.

FAHS MOSS STAUFFER WARNSHUIS.

CB922 7 NITE. BALTIMORE MD 27

DR ROBERT E SPEER.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

THANK GOD PERIOD THE CHURCH VINDICATING HERSELF.

THOMAS FREEMAN DIXON.

~~14 SEP 10 10A 9 GA RELAY~~

BX PHILADELPHIA PA MAY 27

DR ROBERT E SPEER

27

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS CIVIC AUD SANFRANCISCO

GLORY YOUR ELECTION A STEP FORWARD BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DR ROBERT E SPEAR.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO BE CONGRATULATED.

.ROBERT M RUSSELL.

NB 762 12 NITE. NEWYORK NY 27

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1927 MAY 27 PM 4 12

DR ROBERT E SPEER.

STFRANCES HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

WITH YOUR NEW HONORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES GO OUR RENEWED PRAYERS AND LOYALTY.

.GUY.

AA 45 13. U WASHINGTON DC 27 702A

1927 MAY 27 AM 4 31

MODERATOR ROBERT SPEER, PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

.SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

LOVING CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS FOR GODS RICHES BLESSING ON YOU AND THE CHURCH.

CADMAN.

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BALTIMORE MD 908A MAY 27 1927

DR ROBERT E SPEER

CARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WE REJOICE IN YOUR ELECTION AS MODERATOR OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THE HONOR SO FULLY DESERVED GIVES OPPORTUNITY FOR THE
EVEN LARGER EXERCISE OF THOSE DISTINGUISHED GIFTS ALREADY
SO WIDELY RECOGNIZED I AM SURE YOUR INCUMBENCY WILL BE
TO THE EXTENSION OF THE KINGDOM AND THE GREATER GLORY
OF GOD AFFECTIONATELY

LUTHER B WILSON

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PHILADELPHIA PENN 404P MAY 28 1927

DR ROBERT E STEER

STFRANCIS HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND JOYFUL PRAISE TO THE LORD
JESUS STOP A GREAT DAY FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS
WORLD WIDE STOP WE ALL LOVE AND TRUST YOU AND PRAY THE MASTER MAY
GUIDE YOU UNERRINGLY IN HIS WORK AND TO HIS GLORY

FINDLEY M WILSON CORRESPONDING SECRETARY COVENANTER BOARD

UC STLOUIS MO 235P MAY 27 1927

ROBERT E SPEER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICIALS OF UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY HEARTILY
CONGRATULATE YOU AND THE ASSEMBLY ON YOUR ELECTION
AS MODERATOR

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1927 MAY 30 AM 1

DR ROBERT E SPEER, MODERATOR .

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO CALIF.
CONGRATULATIONS YOUR ELECTION MODERATOR OUR PRAYERS GODS
BLESSING ON YOU.

ROSE AND FENNELL TURNER.

WILMINGTON DEL 1011A MAY 27 1927

DR ROBERT E SPEER

CARE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUR FINE SPIRIT

AQUILLA WEBB

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DR ROBERT E SPEER

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL SASSEMBLY

CONGRATULATIONS LONG LIFE AND CONTINUED PROSPERITY TO YOUR
GREAT TASK

W W WILLIAMSON

K MINNEAPOLIS MINN 1148A JUNE 1 1927

ROBERT SPEERS

MODERATOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA
BE THE STANDARD BEARING CHURCH OF THE WORLD TRUE TO
THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE WERE CREATED HAND DOWN THE
WORD IN ALL ITS BEAUTY PURITY AND POWER UNDIMINISHED UNDILUTED
AND UNADULTERATED STRENGTHEN THAT LINE IT IS THE KINGS COMMAND
IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING

ZELLA CLARK PRESBYTERIAN

NB22 22 NL. ATLANTIC CITY NJ 27

DR ROBERT E SPEER.

MODERATOR PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAN FRANCISCO
CALIF.

WE REJOICE IN YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE MODERATORSHIP YOU WILL
BE CONSTANTLY IN OUR PRAYERS MY WIFE JOINS ME IN SINCERE
REGARDS.

WM U FOLLANSBEE.

PRINCETON NJ 255P MAY 30 1927

DR ROBERT E SPEER

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ST FRANCIS HOTEL
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

YOUR ALMA MATER CONGRATULATES YOU UPON THE HONOR WHICH HAS
COME TO YOU AND THROUGH YOU TO HER

JOHN GRIER HIBBEN

FV244 52 NL 3 EXTRA. BERKELEY CALIF 9
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.
156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY.

1927 SEP 10 AM 12 51
TREASURERS OFFICE

FIVE HUNDRED PRESBYTERIANS CELEBRATE CALIFORNIA'S SEVENTY
SEVENTH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY MING QUONG EXTEND THROUGH YOU
SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MODERATOR SPEER AFTER
READING PSALM SIXTY VERSE FOUR WE ASKED GODS BLESSING UPON
HIM THROUGHOUT COMING YEAR IN SUMMONING PRESBYTERIANS TO
EVANGELISTIC AND MISSIONARY ADVANCE IN LOVING LOYALTY WE
WILL FOLLOW.

STANLEY A HUNDEE MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY.

NB619 14 NITE.SUMMIT NJ 28

31

ROBERT E SPEAR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
USA. SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS AND HEARTY REJOICINGS IN YOUR ELECTION
AS MODERATOR VERY PROUD AND HAPPY.

WILLIAM I HAVEN.

PY NEWYORK NY 27

ROBERT E SPEER 1243

MODERATOR PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAN FRANCISCO CALIF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CALLING BY ACCLAMATION TO ITS CHIEF OFFICE
A MAN FOUND FAITHFUL HAS HIGHLY HONORED ITSELF BY RECOGNIZING IN YOU
THAT STUFF OF MANHOOD NECESSARY TODAY FOR THE UNFINISHED TASK MAY
THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION EVER BE SEEKING
THE MIND OF CHRIST MR REVELL AND MR FARIS UNITE WITH ME IN CORDIAL
CONGRATULATIONS

S EDGAR BRIGGS.

NB104 10. NEW ROCHELLE NY 27 730A

DR ROBERT E SPEER.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.

YOUR DOUBLE SEND CONGRATULATIONS USE ME WHEN THINGS PILE UP

ROBERT GARDNER MCGREGOR.

CA48 7. COLUMBUS OHIO 28 929A

ROBERT E SPEER.

ST FRANCIS HOTEL. SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS ALL READY FOR AN ADVANCE.

SAMUEL S PALMER.

NA75 47 6 EXTRA. NEWYORK NY 28 1036 A

REV ROBERT E SPEER.

ST FRANCIS HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN
MONTHLY SESSION REJOICES IN YOUR ELECTION AS MODERATOR OF
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXTENDS AFFECTIONATE CONGRATULATIONS
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNIQUE SERVICE ALIKE TO
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND TO WHOLE CHURCH OF CHRIST THROUGHOUT
WORLD.

JOHN W LANGDALE ACTING CHAIRMAN SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT
SECRETARY.

NEW ORK NY MAY 27 1927

DR ROBERT E SPEER

156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF
CHRIST IN AMERICA IN ITS MONTHLY SESSION THIS AFTERNOON REJOICES IN
YOUR ELECTION AS MODERATOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AND EXTENDS TO YOU AFFECTIONATE CONGRATULATIONS WE ARE GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR UNIQUE SERVICE ALIKE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND TO THE
WHOLE CHURCH OF CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WE ACCOUNT IT A PRIVILEGE
TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH YOU IN THE WORK OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES AND EXTEND EVERY GOOD WISH FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WORK
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND ALL ITS AGENCIES DURING THE COMING YEAR

JOHN W LANGDALE ACTING CHAIRMAN SAMUEL
MCCREA CAVERT SECRETARY

DA WASHINGTON DC 27

100 35

DR ROBERT E SPEER 1370

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANFRANCISCO
CALIF

HEARTY GREETINGS FROM YOUR DEVOTED FRIEND THE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL
SYNOD AND SECRETARY OF FOREIGN BOARD OF THE REFORMED CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES UPON YOUR NEW AND HIGH HONOR AND BOTH BEST
WISHES FOR A VERY SATISFYING AND FORWARD LOOKING SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

ALLEN R BARTHOLOMEW.

AA44 16 NITE. BOSTON MASS 27 1

1927 MAY 28 AM 3 1

DR RE SPEER.

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

DELIGHTED THAT WE WILL HAVE YOUR INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AND
GREAT ABILITY TO GUIDE DURING NEXT YEAR.

.LEDYARD COGSWELL

NB81 14. MADISON NJ 28 900A

1927 MAY 28 AM 6 14

DR ROBERT E PEER.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS A DISTINGUISHED HONOR AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SERVICE NEVER MORE WORTHILY BESTOWED.

F N NORTH.

PITTSBURGH PENN 1024A MAY 27 1927

REV ROBERT SPEER

MODERATOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION

HOMER W TOPE

WOOSTER OHIO MAY 27/ 27

DR ROBERT E SPEER

STFRANCIS HOTEL SANFRAN CAL.

THIS IS THE DAY I LONG HAVE SOUGHT AND MOURNED BECAUSE I
FOUND IT NOT.

WISHART.

156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

President Charles F. Wishart, D.D.,
Wooster, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Wishart

It was a great comfort and encouragement to get your telegram at San Francisco. I know well your disappointment with me because I fled this possibility in the past years. I did all I could to flee it this year, too, but my Presbytery was adamant and as I had turned in my commission once before it let me know that that could not be done again if I was to be at the Assembly at all so I went in fear and trembling and the catastrophe came. Happily the good Lord overruled it for, as He had purposed it all the time, He kept things in His own hands and we had a really wonderful Assembly. I never was in one before where so clearly a Power greater than ourselves was manifestly holding things in control and working out, whether with our wills or over them, His own best purpose. Many of us wished that you might have been there to share in all the happiness and good will and to contribute to it as you would so richly have done.

I began this letter formally but don't you think we might drop all these formalities? With sincere gratitude and affection, dear Charles, I am

Ever your friend,

RES/V

WASHINGTON DC 1040A MAY 27 1927

MODERATOR R E SPEER

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OVERJOYED CONFIDENTLY EXPECTING ADMINISTRATION WISE
PEACEFUL ENTHUSIASTIC SUCCESS FOR BELOVED CHURCH

DOCTOR AND MRS WALLACE RADCLIFFE

156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, D.D.,
1675 31st St., N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Radcliffe:

It was a great pleasure to receive in San Francisco the message from Mrs. Radcliffe and yourself. How well I remember the first General Assembly at which I was present as a representative of the Board in the New York Avenue Church in Washington in 1893! And then how well I remember the Assembly in Columbus when you were Moderator, were you not, and I reported on getting back from the Foreign Mission Field in 1898! No greetings that came in San Francisco were more welcome than this word from you two dear friends.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES/t

DR ROBERT E SHEER.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANFRANCISCO CALIF
THE OFFIERS AND MEMBERS OF YOUR BOYHOOD SUNDAY SCHOOL EXTEND
HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TOGETHER WITH THEIR PRAYERS THAT
YOU MAY HAVE GODS GUIDANCE IN YOUR HOLY OFFICE.

PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL HUNTINGDON PENN.

June 23, 1927

The Presbyterian Sunday School,
Huntingdon, Pa.

Dear Friends,

At the General Assembly in San Francisco I received your hearty telegram of congratulation and good will. Of all the messages which came there was none more gratefully received than yours. I need not say that I did not want to be Moderator. I have already more than I can do in connection with other duties, but it seemed to be duty also to take up this work for the year, and one good lesson which we learned in the good old Huntingdon days was that there was only one thing to do with duty and that was to go ahead and do it. The one thing that made me glad in the matter was the thought of our old church and town and presbytery and of the Church's honor as coming home to them. I spoke of our old presbytery, both at the beginning and the end of the Assembly, and of the debt that all of us who grew up in the old church and the old town owe to those who went before us and who left us their example of loyalty and truth.

It was good to see Dr. Daubenspeck during the Assembly and some time during the year I hope to be in Huntingdon if possible to get back for a Sunday both in the Sunday School and in the church. I thank you again for your message and for all the prayer and confidence that I know came with it and will follow after it.

Your sincere friend,

39
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 22, 1927.

Mr. Charles L. Reid,
274 Penn St.,
Huntington, Pa.

My dear Charlie:

I enclose herewith a note to the Sunday School in answer to the telegram which came signed by them to the General Assembly. I think you are still Superintendent and I was sure that the message came through you.

I did not want to be Moderator but as things turned out, it was clearly one's duty to take up the work and go forward with it and certainly there has been every evidence of God's blessing since. The one thing that really gave me satisfaction and happiness in it was the thought of our old church and Presbytery and that in this way some honor could be brought to our old town - but I will speak of this in the letter to the Sunday School.

I have a great pile of telegrams and letters that came to San Francisco or that have come in since. There has been nothing but good will and friendship from every quarter of the Church.

I was busy till late last night working over the invitations that have come in for the fall and winter. I can see that I shall be not much better than a tramp this year and I told Elliott that I expected to have to eat about a cubic mile of veal loaf and potato salad in basement church suppers. Dr. Wishart of Wooster tried to do this when he was Moderator and his digestion failed. I think one ought to get through, however, by the same methods pursued in feasts in China, namely, the policy of nibble.

I have an invitation from Dr. Francis to come to the 75th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Altoona on November 8th and told him that I would do this if it is possible as I trust it will be. I have also an invitation to the Lewistown Church for November 16th which I have not yet answered but which I will answer as soon as I can. Some time during the year I must, of course, get to Huntington.

With a great deal of love to all,

Very affectionately,

RES/V

MO NEWYORK NY 740P MAY 26 1927

DR ROBERT E SPEER

STFRANCIS HOTEL ROOM 526 SANFRANCISCO CALIF

CONGRATULATE ASSEMBLY ON EXCELLENT TASTE IN ELECTING ITS NEW MODERATOR

RACHEL K MCDOWELL

Miss Rachel K. McDowell,
c/o The New York Times,
New York City.

My dear Miss McDowell:

I thank you with all my heart for your kind telegram of congratulation which came to me at the General Assembly. I had earnestly hoped and prayed that there might be some way of escape but as I look back I can believe that it was all of God's ordering and that there was nothing, of course, to do but to walk in what seemed to be the way of duty. We certainly had God's evident and abundant blessing at the Assembly and I trust and pray that it may be the beginning of far better and richer things for our Church in the days to come.

With warm regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

NA153 6.AZ NEWYORK NY 27 1213P

DR ROBT E SPEER.

STFRANCIS HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND THE CHURCH.

M M GILMORE.

Mrs. Henry V. K. Gillmore,
124 E. 84th St.,
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Gillmore:

I am afraid each time that I have seen you since the Assembly there was so much business on hand that I had no opportunity to thank you for your kind telegram of congratulations which came in San Francisco. I have just been going over this morning the many, many messages that came then or that have come subsequently and they make one feel very rich in the thought of so much friendship and good will.

God's blessing was very manifestly with the Assembly from first to last and we have very much for which to be thankful to Him. I trust and pray that the assembly may mean the beginning of still richer and better things for our Church.

Very cordially yours,

CB8 10 NITE.CHICAGO ILL 26

1927 MAY 27 AM 1 55

DR ROBERT SPEER.

STFRANCES HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

AFFECTIONATE GOOD WISHES ELECTION WILL REJOICE FOREIGN AND
HOME WORKERS.

CLELAND B MCAFEE.

156 Fifth Ave.
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

Rev. Cleland B. McAfee:
McCormick Theological Seminary,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Cleland:

It was a great joy to receive at San Francisco your telegram of love and good wishes. I honestly did whatever I could to avert my election as Moderator but when it came in spite of all that one could do, there was nothing for it but to see it as duty and to go straight ahead, doing the best one could. Surely God's blessing was with us in San Francisco from the first to the last. Some time when there is opportunity I should like to tell you about some of the experiences and how clearly a wisdom and spirit far greater than our own brought us through.

I was glad to see Lapsley the Sunday evening I spoke in his church. He was looking very well but clearly had been severely shaken. We missed him from the work of the Commission of Fifteen but he read the proofs and cordially gave his assent. I trust that he is going to gain steadily through the summer and that you two are going to have a real rest and come back in the fall with more vigor and endurance than you have ever had.

With warm regard,

Ever affectionately yours,

NB147 7.FB NEWYORK NY 27 833A

1927 MAY

ROBERT E SPEER.

STFRANCES HOTEL SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHURCH AND YOU.

JUAN ORTS GONZALEZ.

Rev. Juan Orts Gonsalez,
419 Fourth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Orts:

I am afraid each time that I have seen you since the Assembly there was so much business on hand that I had no opportunity to thank you for your kind telegram of congratulations which came in San Francisco. I have just been going over this morning the many, many messages that came then or that have come subsequently and they make one feel very rich in the thought of so much friendship and good will.

God's blessing was very manifestly with the Assembly from first to last and we have very much for which to be thankful to Him. I trust and pray the the Assembly may mean the beginning of still richer and better things for our Church.

PHILADELPHIA PENN 949A MAY 27 1927

ROBERT E SPEER

MODERATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REJOICE GREATLY IN YOUR ELECTION MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU
AND THE GREAT DENOMINATION WHICH YOU ARE SERVING WITH SUCH
DISTINCTION

WILFRED W FRY

Mr. Wilfred W. Fry,
300 Chestnut St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Fry:

I thank you with all my heart for your kind telegram of congratulation which came to me at the General Assembly. I had earnestly hoped and prayed that there might be some way of escape but as I look back I can believe that it was all of God's ordering and that there was nothing, of course, to do but to walk in what seemed to be the way of duty. We certainly had God's evident and abundant blessing at the Assembly and I trust and pray that it may be the beginning of far better and richer things for our Church in the days to come.

With warm regard, I am

AUBURN NY MAY 27

DR ROBT E SPEEL

PRESBYTERIAN GENL ASSEMBLY SANFRANCISCO

CONGRATULATIONS BOTH TO YOU AND THE CHURCH

EMILY A DARLING

156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

Miss Emily A. Darling,
26 Easterly Ave.,
Auburn, N. Y.

My dear Miss Emily:

I cannot tell you with what joy and gladness and gratitude I received your message at the General Assembly. You are one of my oldest friends in this missionary work of our Church and I often remember the old days and all our happy hours together. I would have come to see you when I was in Auburn at the Seminary commencement but I got there just in time for the address and had to leave on the train afterward but I asked about you and was glad of every word that I could hear. If I am ever in Auburn again with any spare time and you can see me I shall certainly come.

God's blessing was very manifest in the Assembly and I think we can all feel a great joy in the outcome. I trust that it may prove to have been the beginning of far better things for our dear Church.

With warm regard,

Ever affectionately yours,

156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

Rev. Hugh K. Walker, D.D.,
2642 Van Buren St.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Dr. Walker:

Ever since the assembly I have been waiting for an opportunity to thank you for all your helpful service as Chairman of the Committee on National Missions. It was a great comfort to know that you were at the head of the Committee and I trust that it was not too much of a care.

We certainly have a great deal for which to thank God as we look back over the work of the assembly. One has a new faith as he realizes how clearly and surely God will take care of things and pervade them with His Spirit if we will only trust ourselves to Him.

~~With warm~~ thank you enough for your warm friendship through all the years and your ever generous kindness and trust.

With warm regard, I am

Very faithfully yours,

RES/V

MINISTERS
K. WALKER, D. D.
C. ELLIOTT, M. A.

Original

First Presbyterian Church

TWENTIETH AND FIGUEROA STREETS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

45
FILING DEPT

JUL 25 1927

SECRETARIES

RECEIVED

July ninth, 1927.

JUL 18 1927

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am deeply grateful to you for your kind letter of recent date. It was certainly a very gracious thing on your part to thank me for the small service I was able to render in connection with our recent General Assembly. I counted it a high honor to serve as chairman of the Standing Committee on National Missions and I thank you with all my heart for giving me the opportunity.

I had a wonderfully fine committee. Every one of the forty-five members answered to the roll call at our final meeting and the chairman of each sub-committee was ready with a written report accompanied by appropriate recommendations. The meetings of our committee were remarkably harmonious. I have served the Church several times in the position of chairman of various standing committees and I do not recall anything but pleasant cooperation on the part of the members of these committees but I think the San Francisco experience was if anything the most delightful of my life.

We can never cease to be grateful to you for being willing to accept the Moderatorship and I can say in all sincerity that I have never worked under so fine a Moderator. Your election by acclamation was a deserved tribute to the best known and best loved Presbyterian on the American continent and indeed in all the world. The Assembly honored itself by electing you in such a hearty and enthusiastic fashion.

I have always admired and loved you and cherished your friendship and it was a great joy to render any little service in my power in connection with the work which you so kindly assigned me. I am praying that God's richest blessing may rest upon you during this entire year.

With sincere affection, I am

Most gratefully and cordially yours,

Hugh K. Walker.

47
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

July 19, 1927,
Dictated 14th.

The Rev. Henry C. Swearingen, D.D.,
St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Henry,

It was a great pleasure to get your good letter of June 30th with its most kind and generous appreciation of such service as I was able to render on our Sub-Committee. The fellowship of the Commission was a great joy and our discussions were one of the richest educational experiences I have ever had. In common with all the other members of the Commission and yet, I think, in a measure beyond theirs, I appreciate the immeasurable service which you have rendered as Chairman. The Church owes you a debt which no words can express.

I mailed you a letter, addressed to your Committee of the General Council on our judicial procedure, last evening. Will you not put your mind on this so that we can be ready with some constructive action at our meeting in November?

Some time ago I wrote to Dr. Dulles, the Librarian of Princeton Seminary, with reference to the best books on marriage and divorce, and enclose herewith a copy of the list which he sent. Will you not try this summer to give some time to this subject also, considering first, the New Testament teaching, second, the general question of wise church policy and legislation, and, third, the problem of what we can do, whether in the seminaries or our Church papers, or in pastorate teaching, to deal with these problems at their roots.

Let me speak again of the warmth and depth of the affection which I have for you as a result of our happy fellowship these recent years. All the future will be the richer and the better for this.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

RES:C.
Enc.

156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York
June 20, 1927 (Dict. June 17)

Mr. Will H. Hays
469 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Will Hays:

I told you at the Assembly how much we owed you and how thankful we are to you, but I want to tell you again. You have rendered a great service - a greater service than you can ever know on earth or than time will ever reveal, but you will know it in Heaven and you will have a richer welcome there because of what you have done these years. It is good to know you and to be your friend.

Ever faithfully yours,

MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF AMERICA, INC. **FILING DE**

469 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

JUN 30 1927

SECRETARY

WILL H. HAYS
PRESIDENT
CARL E. MILLIKEN
SECRETARY

RECEIVED

JUN 27 1927

Mr. S.

S

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 23, 1927.

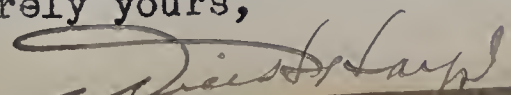
The Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am back here this morning and find your very kind letter of the 20th. This I appreciate thoroughly. The whole occasion was splendid and I am very happy and grateful for everything. Nothing could possibly be finer than your election. Everyone is of one mind about that.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes always, I am

Sincerely yours,



THE COLLEGE CHURCH

WESTMINISTER

GEORGE N. LUCCOCK, MINISTER

WOOSTER, OHIO

49

June 18, 1927

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Thank you for official notice of continued membership on the Princeton Com. I am really looking forward with pleasure to the constructive part of the committee's work.

I wish to commend your additional appointments. Dr. Henry Brown whom I know best of all among the new members is an unusually strong and fairminded man.

Drs. Stevenson and Erdman suggested asking the Assembly to make you a member of the committee. It would have been a privilege to have you in our committee fellowship and in any case we shall need and ask for your counsel. But I think it better for the Board of Foreign Missions and fairer to you that you should not be loaded as you would be if officially a member of the committee.

Suffer me to say how continually I have thanked God for the blessing of your moderatorship. No one else in the Church could have met the situation as it was given to you to meet it. In spite of tense situations, the Assembly came through in sweet spirit, and proved itself the most spiritually stimulating of any Assembly I have ever attended.

And what a day for Foreign Missions with you being the voice of the Church in this challenging year!

With the warmest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

6-18-1927

Geo. N. Luccock

Copy
7/8
Mr. John I. Pasek,
Huron College,
Huron, South Dakota.

My dear Mr. Pasek:

Ever since getting back from the Assembly I have been waiting for an opportunity to write to thank you for your most helpful and effective service as Chairman of the Committee on Mileage. I am sorry that this appointment took you off the other Committee to which you had been elected by your section but I fear the work of the Committee on Mileage may have been rather burdensome. It was a great comfort, however, to know that you were at the head of it and I want to thank you heartily for all the faithfulness and the helpfulness of your service.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

CERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. K. Gardner, President
C. I. Crawford, Vice President
H. P. Carson, Secretary
J. I. Pasek, Treasurer

GEORGE SHANNON McCUNE
President

ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

G. W. Wright, Chairman
A. K. Gardner

F. R. Brumwell
W. S. Hill

HURON COLLEGE

HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Office of Treasurer and Business Manager

FILING DEPT

JUL 9 1927

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Speer

July 2, 1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Moderator of General Assembly
Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Your letter of the 28th assuring me of your appreciation of my part in the work as chairman of the committee on mileage came and I wish to thank you for your letter of appreciation. Although on the face of things it first appeared that the task involved might require considerable time on the part of the committee, and maybe especially the chairman, I am glad to report now that after we got into things we found that the Treasurer of the Assembly with his assistants had everything in such fine order and the whole work was so planned that it was quite satisfactory work under such conditions and I wish to assure you personally that I enjoyed working with that committee and would commend the treasurer and his assistants for their faithfulness in getting everything in the best possible form for the mileage committee.

As to the General Assembly itself, I enjoyed every bit of it and felt that it was indeed a great pleasure to be a commissioner to the 1927 General Assembly, of which you were the moderator. To be sure there were some rather complex problems before the Assembly but on the whole I feel the final outcome of the final closing of the Assembly pointed to progress along all lines of our church work.

As one of the Presbytery Chairmen in the Pension Fund Campaign I was deeply impressed with the presentation made by the Honorable Will H. Hays. In my mind the success of the Pension Fund Campaign marks the beginning of bigger and better things for all departments of our church work and I am satisfied that the other church Boards will, in a measure at least, profit because of the success in the Pension Fund Campaign.

Again assuring you that I for one appreciate very much your own services as moderator, and with best personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

J. I. Pasek
Treasurer.

McCormick Theological Seminary

2330 North Halsted Street

Chicago, Illinois

JUL 9

SECRET

RECEIVED
Department of Biblical Literature
and English Bible

June 30, 1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

My dear Bobbie:

Your gracious letter was received this morning, and I thank you for it. It was a pleasure to serve the Assembly in even this small way. As Commissioners, we reported on this last Monday to Presbytery our supreme satisfaction in having been present at what everybody seems to feel was the greatest General Assembly of all the years. Great emphasis too was laid upon the fact that we had a great Moderator. Your spirit was admirable. Everybody almost without exception observed and shared it with you. God was certainly in our deliberations. I trust you may continue to be guided in the arduous duties which are yours during the coming year.

Thanking you again for the cordial note you found time to send me, I am, as ever,

Yours very cordially,

George L. Robinson

GLR-m

917/

The Presbyterian Board of Ministerial Relief and Sustentation

Witherspoon Building

Office of the
General Secretary

Philadelphia, Pa.

RECEIVED
JUN
1927

June thirteenth,
1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,

My dear Robert:

I have your letter of June 9th. I am receiving very many gracious letters from many dear friends, but I do think that yours is quite the nicest that I have received up to this time. It was fine of you to write as you have done and more particularly because I know you well enough to know that of all the fine things God has given you and helped you to win for yourself, nothing is more pronounced than your conspicuous honesty, and that what you say you really mean and believe.

I think you know, without my saying very much to you, how keenly I have rejoiced in you and the opportunity to know you a little better because of the way we have been drawn together in the work of the Church and I myself - you will credit me with perfect honesty here, I know - have said to everyone with whom I discussed it, that I knew of no one whom God could summon or permit to become the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, who so richly deserved that honour as yourself.

May God bless us all together in the work in the days to come and with every good wish, I remain,

Gratefully yours,

Henry B. Swast

HBM:B

July 23rd, 1927

The Rev. Henry P. Master, D.D.,
Conference on Faith and Order,
Lausanne, Switzerland.

My dear Henry,

I am sorry to have been delayed so long in thanking you for your good letter of June 13th in reply to my note of June 9th. I appreciate gratefully your generous references to the Assembly and the Moderatorship. It certainly was a good time that we had, and I rejoice in the triumphant results of your program with regard to the Pension Fund. No one who was present that morning at the Assembly will ever forget it. Down to the end of time the Church will be grateful to you for what you have done.

In making up the Committees of the General Council I did not forget your suggestion but Dr. Mudge and I did not see any way at this time of readjusting things. I trust it may be worked out in the way of your suggestion next year.

I hope that you are having a fine time at the Conference. I wish I could be there to hear the discussions.

Very cordially yours,

May 21, 1927

Dear Dr. Speer:

How glad I am!
It was worth crossing the
Continent to see and hear yesterday
in its election, what I expected
to hear and see. And then to
hear your speech - that was
a spiritual treat. But I was
just like you.

God keep you during the
year of stress and strain which
will put even you to the test!

Yours as ever

John T. Faris

The Rev. John T. Faris, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Dr. Faris,

I have had to wait for a long time to get an opportunity to write a word of grateful appreciation of your letter of May 27th in San Francisco. I thank you more than I can say for your kind words and I thank you now and always for your ever warm and generous friendship.

I think it was a truly good and memorable meeting of the Assembly. It was something wonderful to have such clear and unmistakable guidance and protecting care from God. We were walking through the most difficult places and again and again mistakes were made, but God seemed to have them all in His keeping and time and again one could see how He would permit a mistake to be made that would just correct some other counter mistake. I wish we could walk always as trustfully and with as rich an experience.

I trust that this new year is going to be a good and fruitful year, full of effective witness to the truth of loving accord and of rich assurance of God's presence in the Church.

With kind regard,

Very sincerely yours,

53

greetings. I have myself wished
so that they might know I
had carried out my mission.
I was very pleased with your
response to the greetings and
your quoting Stevensons
wonderfully touching verse
as to the graves of the martyrs.
My friend D. Wilson from the
United Church was rather
propagandist. I purposely
refrained from making any
reference to the organic Union
matter. There is another side to
D. Wilson's story - but I did not
consider I should bring the
subject before your Assembly.
I believe deeply in unity and
fellowship with all Christians

The Rev. R. S. MacBeth, D.D.,
Toronto, Ont.,
Canada.

My dear Dr. MacBeth,

It was a great pleasure to receive in San Francisco your kind letter of May 31st, written on the eve of your leaving our General Assembly for home. I am sorry there has been no opportunity before this to thank you for your letter, and to tell you again how glad we were to have you and Dr. Eilson with us. I do not think our General Assembly detected in either of your admirable addresses anything unkindly or inappropriate with regard to the situation in Canada. On the other hand, I think every one felt the fine spirit of all that was said and admired your both.

I trust I may have the pleasure of seeing you again some time either in Canada or here in our own country, and with best wishes and grateful appreciation of your kind words with regard to the Assembly, I am,

But when Sir Henry & I were in his
recent book "Around the World"
tried the uninvited - blundered in
Canada.

Your tribute to the late Dr.
Scovell on Sunday p. m.
warmed my heart. I did not
know him personally - but his
work will abide as commending
him to us all

An Assembly is like a
flaming torch in my old
brain life. It soon re-
cognises the hand of a
master. It is a great thing
this year that you were in
the Chair

Yours faithfully
R. J. MacBeth



5
May 31-1927

64
Mr. S. Speer

Today
I expect to leave for my home in Vancouver B.C. I have enjoyed and profited by your great assembly.

I would be glad if you could send a wire to "The Moderator of the General Assembly, Stratford, Ontario Canada," saying that I had conveyed the greetings of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and reciprocating the good wishes and fraternal

The Westerfield
610 West 116th Street
New York City

June 3, 1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Thank you very much for your offer to send me a copy of your deputation report on Japan and China here. My assistant has not forwarded the copy posted to me at San Anselmo, so I shall thank you in advance for a copy to be sent to the above address.

Mrs. White and Townsend will leave for California on June 10th but I shall be at International House until August 29th.

Your election as Moderator of the General Assembly brought widespread satisfaction. The Church honored herself in honoring you and I congratulate you upon the masterly manner with which you dealt with difficult situations. Please give us the pleasure of welcoming you at San Francisco Seminary as Moderator of the Assembly.

Mrs. White joins me in the best of good wishes.

Cordially yours,

Myra J. White

55
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET
NEW YORK



June
third
1 9 2 7

Dear Robert:

I have been meaning for a long time to write to congratulate you upon your election as Moderator of the General Assembly under such unusual circumstances. It is a rare honor that has come to you and a great responsibility that it brings with it. I am sure you did right to accept.

Under another cover I am sending you a little book of mine which deals with a subject that I know is very close to your own heart and that will be still closer during the year that lies before you.

Mrs. Brown and I sail tomorrow, to be gone until the latter part of September. I shall have an opportunity at Lausanne and at Geneva to make some further first-hand studies in the problem of unity.

Did I ever thank you for your admirable report on conditions in China? I read it with absorbing interest.

Faithfully yours,

William Brewster

THE HILL SCHOOL

POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
BOYD EDWARDS, D. D., HEAD MASTER

RECEIVED

June 9th, 1927.

Mr. Speer

My dear Dr. Speer:

At the time of your election as Moderator of the General Assembly I wanted to telegraph you but I realized that your heart, hand and head would be very full of affairs at that time and I waited. You have done the church a great service by accepting this Moderatorship and they have not done a more sensible thing in the last generation than to elect you by acclamation. I am exceedingly comforted and heartened by that action and I wish for you the fullest measure of success in all the deepest purposes that I know your heart cherishes as you begin your year of service in this great office.

There is plenty of room in the Christian church for men of liberal mood and men of conservative mood if they will keep the Christian spirit and you are the most satisfactory proof of it I know of, - so great success to you!

Cordially yours,

Boyd Edwards
m.

Dr. Boyd Edwards,
The Hill School,
Pottstown, Pa.

My dear Poyd,

This is the first opportunity I have had to write even a little note of thanks for your letter of June 9th, and your generous words regarding the General Assembly and the Moderatorship. I did all I could to avert the Assembly's action in this matter, but once it was taken, there was nothing to do but to shoulder the duty and go forward with it as well as one could. And we certainly did have God's blessing on the Assembly. I have never seen clearer evidence of His Power and willingness to lead the great company of men safely through their own wise and foolish counsels, and their own sound judgments and poor blunders to right and good ends. I hope now that we may have a fine year in the life and work of the Church, a year of security and truth and love.

57
REV. MILFORD HALL LYON, D. D.
6134 KIMBARK AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Chicago. June eleventh, 1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer,

Accept my heartiest congratulation on your election as Moderator. Its unanimity augurs well for a most prosperous term.

It is gratifying to note the attitude of the Assembly toward evangelism and the aim to give it special emphasis throughout the coming year.

Since the passing of Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, this subject has not received the recognition and attention it formerly had. Other matters have crowded it aside in the plans and deliberations of our denomination.

We have a number of men in the Presbyterian church who have made a marked success in evangelistic work and have made this subject a life study. Would it not be wise to include some of these or at least to have them represented upon the special committee which the Assembly authorized you to appoint?

Wishing you every success in your great ministry,

I am

Fraternally yours,

Milford H. Lyon

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JAMES H. LOCKHART
UNION BANK BUILDING
PITTSBURGH

3rd June, 1927.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I want to thank you for sending me that special copy of your and Dr. Kerr's report on your trip to the Orient and I will have pleasure in looking through it later on. Your kindness is appreciated.

I want to congratulate you on the new honor which has come to you in the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, and would also congratulate the Assembly on its wise choice.

With kindest regards and every good wish, I am,

Yours sincerely,

James H. Lockhart

JHL/E

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
c/o The Board of Foreign Missions
of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

ROY EWING VALE
MINISTER

Dear Dr. Spear:

In preparing my report for the Oak Park Church, I found the key to the whole high level of the General Assembly in a phrase from your closing message. You did not intend in that phrase to account for the greatness of the moderator, or for the greatness of the Assembly. But that is what you did account for when you said, "Faw into the night & pray, and long before dawn!" Faw into the night — and long before dawn; it argues well for the year.

Very sincerely,
Ewing Vale

June 9, 1927.

Caroline N. Singmaster
Gettysburg

May 31-1927.

Dr. Robert C. Speer.

My dear friend,

Mrs. Lewis and I were
delighted to see that the General
Assembly had so honored itself
as to elect you its Moderator.
We feel that the Presbyterians
are safe for the period of your
Administration and we are as
glad as we can be.

Give Mrs. Speer our love and
accept our congratulations.

Sincerely your friend,

Caroline N. Singmaster.

OFFICERS

Founded August, 1904, Incorporated as The Midnight Mission, January 15, 1908
Now under the auspices of the Chicago Church Federation—800 Churches

Minister
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The
Night  Church

22 Quincy Street

Handwritten initials: JS

Chicago, May 27, 1927

My dear Dr. Speer:

There's such divinity doth hedge a Moderator that this may never reach you. If it does, permit me to call, or recall, to your notice that the General Assembly this year met on Ascension Day and continues until Pentecost.

Some of the Reformers, as you know, threw away too much — for instance Pentecost, a historical anniversary of a stupendous New Testament event — and the Anglicans have obscured it by calling it Whitsunday.

Very cordially yours,
Ernest A. Bell

San Francisco, Calif.,

May 27, 1927

Dear Dr. Speer:-

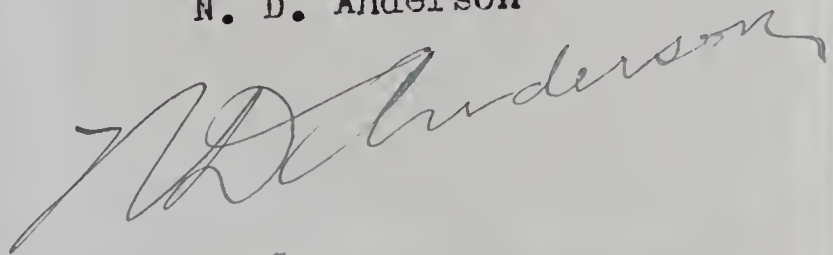
I am a lay member of another great division of Christ's missionary army. I was present at your election yesterday and was deeply impressed by the solid unity of your church as they stood behind you and in their purpose to evangelize the world in the name of its Redeemer.

The inclosed appeared in the "Review and Herald",
in 1922
during a convention held in this same building and similar to yours. In it I tried to express the spirit of missionary effort and sacrifice--Cary's, Livingstone's, innumerable others'.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ,

N. D. Anderson

711 Webster St.,
San Francisco, Calif.



THEY COME---THEY GO.

N. D. Anderson

(In the Review & Herald, Washington, D. C., June 29, 1922)

At the call of God they come,--
 Not at the bugle's blare,
 Not at the roll of drum,--
 For love from everywhere.
 From fever-laden swamps, from burning sands,
 From arid steppes, and ice-incrusted strands,
 From savage isles, and devil-ravished lands,--
 Behold, they come!

They come to tell a modern miracle,--
 Of hearts of stone turned into hearts of flesh,
 Of captives freed from dungeons dark and fell
 With souls renewed and spirits born afresh.

They come to give their love, and take away
 The love of brethren of like faith as they;
 And in God's service firmer, on their way,
 Behold, they go!
 Not at self's command,
 Not for reward below,--
 For love to every land,
 And at the call of God
 They go!

*N.D. Anderson
 San Francisco Calif
 5/28/27*

May
Twenty-Seventh
1927.

5

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Moderator, Presbyterian Gen'l Assembly,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Doctor Speer:-

If you had been at my house this morning,
you would have seen a most delighted household when we
read in the paper that you had been elected Moderator.

I am sure that if there was a Providential
occurrence, it has been this, for there is no man
better fitted to bring peace and unity to the church
than you. It was doubly gratifying to know you had
been elected by acclamation, which action certainly
means that the great bulk of the church are tired of
the controversies of the past years.

With best wishes from each and all of us,
I am,

Yours very truly,

Harold Baer

Monday 6 P.M.

Dear Robert

Going home tonight -
God certainly wanted you to be
Moderator! And we all thank God
you are - You have done your
work, well, so very well, old man.

If I can help you in any way during
the year, let me -

affectionately

Harold Baer

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both primary and secondary data collection techniques. The primary data was gathered through direct observation and interviews, while secondary data was obtained from existing reports and databases.

The analysis phase involved a thorough review of the collected information to identify trends and patterns. Statistical tools were used to quantify the data, and the results were compared against industry benchmarks. This process revealed several key insights into the current market conditions and consumer behavior.

Based on the findings, the document provides a series of recommendations for improving operational efficiency and increasing profitability. These suggestions are grounded in the data and are designed to be practical and actionable. The author concludes by expressing confidence in the reliability of the data and the effectiveness of the proposed strategies.

9/15

REV. J. P. LEYENBERGER
3842 EOFF STREET
WHEELING, W. VA.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Your room will be flooded with telegrams, letters, etc., congratulating you on your election to the moderatorship. May this wee note have a place among them? This household has been rejoicing ever since the word came.

Somehow, it seems to me that the Presbyterian Church should receive the congratulations, that her worthy son has come to this position of power and tremendous responsibility. We have a great year ahead of us, and we're for you one hundred percent.

Sincerely yours

J. P. Leyenberger

May 27, 1927



Thursday

Dear Dr. Sperry:

No one

is better qualified to lead
our beloved Church during
the next year than yourself.

We stand ready
not only to support you but

to do every thing to make your
moderatorial year a great
success.

Cordially Your friend,

David R. Myler.

SOCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
RELIGIOUS

Men's Report

OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

FOURTH AND BURNSIDE STREETS
REV. LEVI JOHNSON, Supt. ROSS DESMOND, Clerk
PHONE BROADWAY 0396
Portland, Oregon.

OPEN DAILY

8 A. M. to 10 P. M.

ALL WELCOME

Dear Bro. Merber -

I have been waiting till you got back home to see my expectations on your election to the moderatorship - I do not mind anything that has happened in a quarter of a Century that gives more satisfaction than you receive - I hope you will be able to do much - May the Spirit sustain and guide you in a glorious year of service.

Sincerely yours

Levi Johnson

69
July 22, 1927

The Rev. Levi Johnson,
Portland, Oregon.

My dear Levi,

It was a joy to get your letter of June 1st with its loving congratulations, only I wish that you or some one of the hundreds of good, faithful pastors in the Church, who are in some local congregation, building the foundations of God's Kingdom, might have been called to this honor. I am willing to do my best with the hard work but I wish that some one else might have the glory.

We had a fine Assembly. I wish we might have had you there. God's blessing was certainly and clearly with us.

It was good to see your daughter here some time ago. I hope she will come in again some day before she goes back to Portland. It is good to know that I shall have your prayers all through this year; there will be comfort and strength in the thought every day.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

會親懇教督基華中東加
EASTERN CANADA CHINESE MISSION.

埠頓蘭

LONDON CONVENTION 1927

NOV. 5. 6. 7.

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29 LANGLEY AVE., TORONTO 6, ONT.
CONVENTION:- DR. A. S. HAMMOND,
539 DUNDAS ST., LONDON, ONT.

June 10th 1927.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

News from a far country is welcome, I believe, according to the scriptures, so possibly a note of congratulation from an alien, in a foreign land working for foreigners would not be out of order. It was with especial pleasure that I read of your election to the Moderatorship. It is a good thing for the Church, to give to Foreign, or as I prefer to call it International Missions, a prominent place and this is one thing the Presbyterian Church did. Here in Canada I am proud of the United Church for electing its Senior Foreign Secretary to its Moderatorship. Then the Church sent him abroad to visit all or as many fields as he could, accompanied by Dr. Gaudier at the head of an Educational as well as of the Board for many years.

We certainly appreciate the heroic way Mrs. Williams has taken her loss and the Christlike attitude of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions towards the Nanking incident. I knew Dr. and Mrs. Williams quite well also Mr. Davis, the Consul. With best wishes for the highest success of your work this year and with warm regards to Mrs. Speer and yourself,
Yours very sincerely
Wm. D. Noyes.

CABLE ADDRESS
"SIGNARF SAN FRANCISCO"
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPHIC CODE

HOTEL ST. FRANCIS

MANAGEMENT-THOS. J. COLEMAN

UNION SQUARE
SAN FRANCISCO

5/26/27

My dear Dr Speer
The meeting today
was a wonderful tribute to you
of to the cause which you represent,
God Speed! Congratulations!

Here is the copy of your
Board Action with some
suggestions from our Board,

I would like to show you later
the copy of proposed

June 4 1927

Dear Dr. Spier -

This is my first opportunity since the closing of the General Assembly to express to you my profound appreciation of your services as moderator.

Seven years residence in the Presbytery of Pittsburgh have made me very sensitive to the disturbances and irritations of controversy. The ministry of many of us has been clouded by the shadows of divergent opinions. Therefore to have the Assembly move continuously upon a spiritual level and to have

it pulsate with the heart beats of the missionary enterprise were reassuring experiences. There were many times, may I confess to you, when the tears came as I stewed how by Christian courtesy and Christian restraint you were able to guide us through tremendous difficulties.

I return to my work in Pittsburgh truly feeling that I have passed through a spiritual re-awakening. I will be a more humble, and I hope, a more Christ-like servant of our Lord. - As moderator you rebuked as well as inspired many of us. Accept this confession and let it

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serve as the expression of many
like-minded ministers who were similarly
affected. We are unexpressibly indebted
to you.

Very sincerely yours

George W. Brown

The Rev. George William Brown,
7225 Brighton Road,
Ben Avon, Pa.

My dear Mr. Brown,

I am sorry to have been delayed in answering so long your
very kind letter of June 4th, written from Vancouver just after
the Assembly. Yours was one of the nicest and best letters I
have ever received and I thank you for forthwith all my heart.

As I look back to San Francisco, there are several things
that make me feel very humble and penitent, but I can see that God
in His grace took care of these, and I do believe that He gave us all
an experience of what He can do with us, human and blundering as we are,
if altogether we put ourselves trustfully under His Will.

Let us be praying that He may defend us as a Church from all
evil this year and keep us in His true unity and peace.

Very sincerely yours,

SYNOD OF MICHIGAN

REV. WILLIAM BRYANT, D. D.

STATED CLERK AND TREASURER

~~113 ST. LOUIS AVENUE~~

FERNDALE

DETROIT, MICH.

209 W. Buena Vista Ave.
H. R.

June 5th., 1927.

192.....

Dear Dr. Speer,

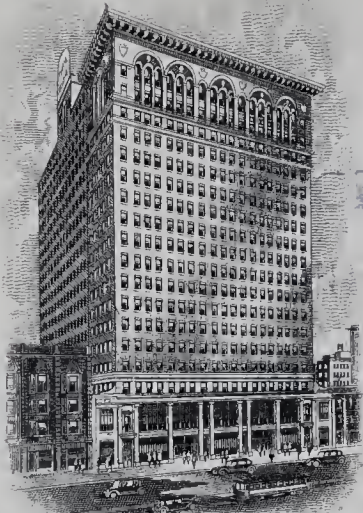
Just a few lines to express my intense delight in the fact of your unanimous election as Moderator of General Assembly. It is not so much the honor that has come to you that rejoices my heart, although I am heartily glad of that. But that our Church has decided by this action that it is unanimous for a soul-winning campaign of world-wide scope. That factions are forgetting the minor things that divide them, and are ready to stand together for the really fundamental things ought to make us all glad. I am not so foolish as to think that we are all from this time forward willing to be truly Christian. Our Christianity has not yet reached that high plain. Human nature is still controversial and ready to imagine that "I only am left alone to defend the truth". But something has been gained, and it is worth while.

If I have a regret as to your election, it is a purely selfish one, that it may prevent your coming to address the Synod of Michigan, which meets in Detroit, First Church, September 27-30. We need you, and you know how cordial will be your welcome.

Most sincerely yours,

William Bryant.

W. B. Thompson



ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF

9
THE GREATER
YMCA HOTEL

A DEPARTMENT OF
THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
OF CHICAGO

NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENTS
2600 ROOMS MODERATE RATES

Saturday afternoon

WABASH AVE. NEAR 8TH ST.

June 4, 1927

My dear Dr. Shepard

I tried to see you before leaving San-
Francisco but failed.

Permit me two things:-

1. My great happiness and satisfaction
that you are moderator.
Every person - man or woman - who
has spoken to me expressed the
same feeling.

I trust you may have a happy year
in the service and that the Church
may profit greatly by your wise
counsel and advice.

2. I am greatly pleased with the
additions of the Princeton Committee.
Here also I have heard only approval
and praise. Dr. Greenway of
Philadelphia sought me out to speak
of his satisfaction with the way the
Committee had dealt with the
Princeton matter and added his
satisfaction with the appointments.

I shall be at 156. 2nd 1/2nd frame
June 17th and shall hope to see you.

Most cordially
W. B. Thompson,

A. E. Moody -

A. E. MOODY, MINISTER, RES. 515 NORTH 13TH
MISS CLARICE E. ADDY, PARISH ASSISTANT
HARRY PLUMMER, GEN. SUPT. SUNDAY SCHOOL

W. H. CUNNINGHAM, CLERK
G. T. THOMPSON, CHURCH T
H. W. GIBSON, JR. BENEVOLE

First Presbyterian Church

BROADWAY AT FIFTH
PHONE 5318

CHURCH OFFICE---217 N. FIFTH
8:30-12:30 DAILY

Muskogee, Okla.

6/13/27

RECEIVED
JUN 13 1927
MR. SPEAR
Dear Mr. Spear.

My heart is most happy
over your election.

May the Holy Spirit lead
this way thru you in this year of
so many challenging things.

Count upon any support
in prayer or service which I may
be able to render - as yours.

As ever

Cordially

A. E. Moody

Bible Institute of Los Angeles

536 South Hope Street

Los Angeles, Calif.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June
Third
1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I wish to express my personal gratitude for the great service that you are rendering the cause of Jesus Christ, and especially for the great work you have done in directing the General Assembly during the meeting at San Francisco. I believe that you were called to the moderatorship at this time in the providence of God and that your services are going to mean everything to the Presbyterian Church.

The thing that you stand for and that is so evident in all of your work is the thing that we need more than anything else and we fervently pray that God may use you during this year to lead the church back to these great fundamentals in a new and gripping way.

I spoke to you about any suggestions you might have regarding work in China because I am very anxious that we may be lead to do the very best thing possible with our work in this crisis and, as you may know, my own great desire in connection with all of our Institute work, both at home and in China, is to line it up in a constructive way with the Evangelical Church so that it may render a genuinely constructive service to the cause of Jesus Christ at this time.

Assuring you of my very highest esteem and warmest regards and most earnest prayers at this great and critical time in your life, I am

Very cordially yours,

John M. Mac Innis

July 22, 1927

The Rev. John W. MacInnis, Litt.D., Ph.D.,
~~Bible Institute of Los Angeles,~~
536 South Hope Street,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Dr. MacInnis,

This has been the first opportunity since the meeting of the Assembly to write to thank you for your very kind letter of congratulation with regard to the Moderatorship. I appreciate your generous words more than I can say. I sincerely wished, and wish now, that the Assembly had made some other choice, but it seemed to be the way of duty, and I long ago learned that that is the only road that is worth while trying to travel. I hope and pray now, and I know that you will still, that this may be a good year from first to last in the life of the Church, full of unity of faith and love, and of resolute purpose to have the Mind and Spirit and Will of Christ prevail among us.

I am taking the liberty of sending you herewith a copy of the deputation report on Japan and China which Dr. Kerr and I presented to our Board on returning in January? I am afraid it is pretty heavy reading, but I know that there is much of it that will be of interest to you.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

RES:C.

W. J. Smith

YFS



SMITH & STEVENS

REALTORS

RHODESBILT ARCADE

LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

June 13, 1927

W. J. SMITH
H. S. STEVENS

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

We have all been very much gratified to learn of your selection as Moderator of the General Assembly. It is a very fitting recognition of the many years of loyal and effective service which you have rendered to the cause of Christianity through the Presbyterian Church. During this year when there are so many vital problems to be decided it is reassuring to know that the church has a leader who will guide her safely through the troubled waters.

I can't help thinking how pleased my brother Ray would have been over the choice of the General Assembly. He not only admired you for your splendid ability and statesmanship but loved you as a brother. No doubt you saw his widow while in San Francisco as she is living in Berkeley.

Very sincerely,

W. J. Smith

W. J. Smith

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF KENTUCKY
BROADWAY AT FIRST STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY.
DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

1609 Bull St.
Columbia, S. C.

June 10th 1907

Dr Robert E. Speer -
New York, N.Y.
Dear Mr. Speer:

Please permit to express to you my
satisfaction with your election as Moderator of the
U.S.A. Assembly and my equal satisfaction with your
wise, just and truly Christian discharge of the duties of that
office. I hope and pray all the members which
deserve the grace of your Church may be united
and that we may soon be to see the blessed
consummation of a real Union of the U.S. and N.A.
A. bodies. I am convinced that the vast
majority of both bodies are fundamentally united
and that the time for Union is decreasing and
growing both North and South. May it please
that you as the leader sincerely appointed to secure this
gracious result.

Yours cordially,
Wm. R. Hooper

81
July 22, 1927

The Rev. Thornton Whaley,
1609 Bull St.,
Columbia, S.C.

My dear Professor Whaling,

This has been the first opportunity since the meeting of the Assembly to write to thank you for your very kind letter of congratulation with regard to the Moderatorship. I appreciate your generous words more than I can say. I sincerely wished, and wish now, that the Assembly had made some other choice, but it seemed to be the way of duty, and I long ago learned that that is the only road that is worth while trying to travel. I hope and pray now, and I know that you will still, that this may be a good year from first to last in the life of the Church, full of unity of faith and love, and of resolute purpose to have the Mind and Spirit and Will of Christ prevail among us.

I think with you that the great body of each of our Churches is of one mind and heart. If you had been with us in San Francisco you would have been rejoiced at the evidence of the evangelical unity and love of the Assembly, triumphing gloriously not only over but through the earnest differences of opinion that found expression.

I am taking the liberty of sending you herewith a copy of the deputation report on Japan and China which Dr. Kerr and I presented to our Board on returning in January. I am afraid it is pretty heavy reading, but I know that there is much of it that will be of interest to you.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

RWS:C.

E. L. Slade ^{Mallen} 340 Jay St
Colusa
Calif

June 4/27

Dear Dr Spear

Allow me to congratulate you upon your election as Moderator of Assembly. Many years ago I began to read your books when living in Australia & have brought them with me to California (where I have been residing for the last 2 years.) - The books have been a source of inspiration to me & I was delighted to see you step into the Moderator's chair a wonderful honor & a complement to lay men.

With best wishes & prayers for God's blessing during your term of office

Yours sincerely,
(Rev) E. L. Slade Mallen

The Rev. F. L. Slade Mallen,
340 Jay Street,
Cohesa, Calif.

My dear Mr. Mallen,

This has been the first opportunity since the meeting of the Assembly to write to thank you for your very kind letter of congratulation with regard to the Moderatorship. I appreciate your generous words more than I can say. I sincerely wished, and wish now, that the Assembly had made some other choice, but it seemed to be the way of duty, and I long ago learned that that is the only road that is worth while trying to travel. I hope and pray now, and I know that you will still, that this may be a good year from first to last in the life of the Church, full of unity of faith and love, and of resolute purpose to have the Mind and Spirit and Will of Christ prevail among us.

Very cordially yours,

REV. PAUL S. NEWBY

PASTOR OF
ASSYRIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

2501 North Racine Ave.

PHONE LINCOLN 7868

CHICAGO, ILL.

June 8, 1927

RECEIVED

Dr. Robert E. Speer.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Speer:-

I consider myself very fortunate to have as friends two great men who were elected moderators of a National body during the same. Yourself and pres. O. S. Davis of my alma-mater Chicago Theo. Seminary who was elected Moderator of Congregational National Council. You both deserve this highest honor of your respective denominations. Please accept my hearty and sincere congratulations.

Sincerely yours
Paul S. Newby



First Presbyterian Church
Donald M. Grant, D. D., Minister
Roundsville, W. Va.

June 19, 1927

RECEIVED
JUN 22 1927

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
Moderator of the General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I was merely a "visitor" at the General Assembly, but I think none the less able to form an estimate of that gathering, possibly a little better able than some who were more or less interested in certain lines of Assembly's work. As I told my people this morning, in giving "some impressions of the General Assembly" I have known you for many years, more than thirty-five at any rate, for I met you at the great Eccumenical Conference on Foreign Missions in 1891, and several times in the intervening years, but that never in all these years had I come to see the greatness of the man as on the occasion of your presiding over the General Assembly, and especially in your conduct of the Tuesday afternoon Session and that of Wednesday morning. Being a "visitor" I was able, from my vantage in the gallery, to note carefully, and with growing admiration, the fine spirit in which you conducted the Assembly through that most difficult Session of the Judicial Commission's report. I do not believe there is another man in the whole Church who could have handled it better, and I know there are many who would have precipitated one of the worst situations the Church has ever passed through. Your calmness, your patience, your firm ruling, even if sometimes not absolutely in keeping with the Law of the Church, was so fine that you simply disarmed prejudice and won for yourself and for the great Cause for which you stand the undying love of your brethren. Of your conduct on Wednesday morning I dare not let myself write, more than to say, if ever a man showed the spirit of the lowly Nazarine, you did it there.

I feel sure we have entered upon a great year in our beloved church, and I believe

you have come into the kingdom for just such a time. May the Lord abundantly bless you as you give yourself to the work of the whole church merely in a new capacity, for you have long been the animating spirit in the church in her work abroad.

Assuring you of everything within my power to help in the year's work, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
Donald M. Grant
Donald M. Grant.

June 27, 1927

Rev. Donald M. Grant, D.D.
Moundsville, W. Va.

My dear Dr. Grant:

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the generosity of your letter and its too kind references to the General Assembly and to such service as I was trying to render as Moderator. I don't believe we ever could have come through as we did if it had not been that God's hand was on the tiller overruling both the wisdom and the foolishness of the Assembly. As you indicate, we certainly were hanging over the abyss on Tuesday afternoon and only God's goodness brought us through. He allowed just the right number and kind of mistakes to be made to offset one another so that I think the Assembly came out at the end ~~as to~~ just where it would have come out if no mistakes at all had been made. It was a good experience to go through such a gathering and to realize that it is possible for the spirit of Christ to take possession of a great company like that and in a true sense make the mind of Christ to prevail in it.

I hope with you that we have entered upon a new period now in the life of our Church and that there may be a true spirit of unity and newness of life pervading it and also that we may be able to devise the right measures to enable the Church to pass beyond better feeling, desirable as that is, into richer and more powerful action.

With grateful appreciation of your sympathy and support and remembering well the contacts of earlier years when you were publishing Christendom anno Domini MDCCCCI, which I still have in my library, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

EDWARD HINES, PRESIDENT

L. L. BARTH, VICE PRES.

M. L. HUDSON, SECRETARY

EDWARD H. THOMAS, TREASURER

EDWARD HINES HARDWOOD AND HEMLOCK COMPANY.

A. L. McBEAN, GEN'L MGR.
F. J. JOHNSON, SALES MGR.
W. R. GILLET

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE COMPANY—
INDIVIDUALS

Robt. E. Speer,
156 5th Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.

915

PARK FALLS, WISCONSIN.

June 8th 1927

All our sales, prices, deliveries and contracts are made subject to strikes, lockouts, fires, explosions, accidents, tornadoes, acts of the public enemy, demands or requests of the States, delays of Carriers and any thing beyond our reasonable control; and upon the happening of any such event or events, we reserve the right to cancel all sales, prices, deliveries and contracts without notice to any one of our election so to do, or of our so doing. Our prices are based on the regular grades as made at manufacturing or shipping points. Only orders and contracts signed by the purchaser and accepted by an officer of the Company are binding. We are not liable for any damage, injury or loss after delivery to the Carrier. Delivered prices which mean are F. O. B. prices at point of delivery to the Carrier plus then existing freight charges. We do not guarantee either safe delivery or freight rates. The purchaser must pay all freight in freight rates and all governmental taxes and dues upon sales, deliveries, shipments, bills of lading, invoices, contracts, freight rates or charges. Discount for cash allowed only on amount of invoice after deducting all freight charges. All prices are quoted subject to change or previous sale without notice. This letter having been dictated and not read, we reserve the right to correct all errors occurring therein.

MANUFACTURING

RICE LAKE, WIS.
SAW MILL

CAPACITY 30,000,000 FT. HARDWOOD ANNUALLY CONSISTING OF BIRCH "BEAUTIFUL" MAPLE BASSWOOD HARO ELM SOFT ELM ASH

PLANING MILL
AMPLE FACILITIES FOR MILLING AIR DRIED AND KILN DRIED LUMBER

MODERN DRY KILNS
CAPACITY 50,000 FT. DAILY

CUTTING UP PLANT
CAPACITY 40,000 FT. DAILY RE-MANUFACTURING DIMENSIONS FROM KILN DRIED HARDWOOD LUMBER

GRAIN DOOR MILL
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SAW MILL

CAPACITY 50,000,000 FEET OF SOFTWOOD ANNUALLY CONSISTING OF HEMLOCK "SHAKELESS" TAMARACK WHITE PINE SPRUCE

PLANING MILL
FACILITIES FOR MILLING ALL STANDARD AND SPECIAL STOCK

Dear Dr. Speer:

I was delighted to learn of your election as Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly. I think it will be especially beneficial to the young people both in and out of the Church.

Congratulating you, and anticipating ^a the most successful year under your Moderatorship, I am,

Very truly yours,

William A. Bennett

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WICHITA, KANSAS

June fourth,
1927.

RECEIVED

CHURCH OFFICE
25 NORTH LAWRENCE
MARKET 1088

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Please know how very happy I am over you election as Moderator. My parish received it with great joy. We want no more friction except the friction caused by the gospel in a wicked world.

Dr. Speer I want you to know how much your life has meant to me personally. You have been, unknown to you, my living idea and ideal of a Christian gentleman. I am sure that in a way you little realize this same thing could be said by hundreds of young men in the church. And so we are happy now to see this fine honor come to you.

Isn't there some way that during your term of office a movement can really be launched that will bring our Presbyterian churches in the U.S. into organic union. Recently I wrote to twelve outstanding pastors of the Southern church regarding this and not one was opposed to it and ten were openly waiting for it. Our church wants its life merged in the greater whole but it just seems to me we do nothing in a positive aggressive way to bring this about. It may not be the time to do it but it seems to me that some simple plan could be devised and then all work toward it.

The second thing I wish as a church we might do is the taking of our benevolent budget seriously. I believe the church is ready for an advance here. I believe with some sort of a slogan and with everyone with their shoulder to the load our church can lift this whole problem. I would like to see a real movement launched by the Council and coming down thru every Synod and Presbytery and church until all over the church our benevolent streams would rise. I think the church is ready for such a movement. The pension Plan has shown them what they can do.

Should it ever be possible for you to be in our little city we would be delighted to have you in our pulpit. I shall pray that God will give you wisdom and strength and that He shall go before and with and after you thru out the year.

Your friend in Christ

Ray Anderson

695

Mr Robert C Spur D.D.
156 - 5th Ave
New York.

My dear Doctor Spur: I have
been privileged by Cordile Pusby,
Synod of Burma to sit in the
deliberations of the 139 General
Assembly just now, one hour ago,
closed.

Perhaps I should not take your
valuable time but I must beg
your permission to express my
great joy and thankfulness that
you were chosen Moderator of this
great assembly.

Joy that the honor should come
to you so unanimously and
thankful that such a spirit of unity
kept growing bigger and firmer with

89
each session and all due to
your inspirational and noble
leadership.

We do praise God that he
chose you for this most difficult
task and as great praise to you
that you did it so well.

I am most sincerely
yours.

W. B. Entersine

27 So 18th St.

Camp Hill
Pa

Member of session of the
Camp Hill Presbyterian Church.

THE TRANSPORTATION BUREAU
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

RECEIVED

JUN 1 1927

REPRESENTING
THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND BENEVOLENT AGENCIES

HEADQUARTERS—PETERS TRUST BUILDING
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE BUREAU
S. HOLT, D. D., LL. D. CHAIRMAN
JAMES H. SPEER, D. D. CLERK AND TREASURER
CAROLD MCA. ROBINSON, D. D.
W. SOMERNDIKE
WILLIAM P. SCHELL, D. D.

REV. J. W. PRESSLY, D. D.
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

ROBERT E. SPEER, D. D. M
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D. D. STATE

5

June 10, 1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Your Northwestern pass received. I was at San Francisco for a greater part of the Assembly and upon my request the Southern Pacific made the exception in your case, making your return trip good over the fast trains. With the assistance of Mr. Loomis we secured the same concessions on the Union Pacific but the time was too short for me to communicate with the Northwestern. Thank you for the return of the same.

I am sure that your election as Moderator was in response to a universal demand from the Church at large and think it will give emphasis to our great missionary Board and to the unity of the Presbyterian church. I sincerely trust that it will be possible for you to visit Omaha in the near future. We would be delighted to have you as our guest and would secure a large hearing for you if you could find an available date.

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. Pressly

91

715

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH HOUSE
39 EAST THIRTY-FIFTH STREET
NEW YORK

June 10th, 1927.

Doctor Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

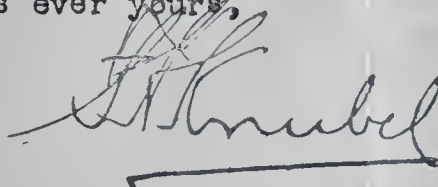
Dear Doctor Speer:

When I saw you the other day it was my hope that there might be an opportunity to speak to you personally for a few minutes. However, as you know, it was necessary for me to leave. Quite contrary to my plans it proved impossible for me to take my contemplated trip. I was suffering during the time of the meeting and realized my condition after my departure. Therefore I abandoned my trip, went home and spent an entire day in bed. As a result I am feeling much better.

My desire for a personal word with you was in order to tell you my heart's congratulation upon your election as Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly. I was honestly thrilled with joy when I first read the news. It would seem as though in an added sense I can now address you as "Brother". May you find true joy in this new service and may your administration mark genuine Presbyterian advance.

If in any way I, in my place, can assist you in yours you will know how to count upon me. With glad and prayerful wishes,
I am

As ever yours,



FHK:MW

F. H. KNUBEL.

THE CLIFTON SPRINGS SANITARIUM AND CLINIC
CLIFTON SPRINGS, NEW YORK

June 3, 1927.

JOHN A. LICHTY, PH. D., M. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1927

S

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I hope you will accept these belated congratulations. I would have written you at San Francisco or sent a telegram but thought I would rather have this letter waiting for you in New York when you return and when you are not crowded so much with the various interests. I have heard and read much about your election and have never before noted such a universal feeling of approval to the election of a moderator for the Presbyterian assembly.

I congratulate you and wish to say to you that we all at Clifton feel highly honored in your being honored. I hope we can so conduct ourselves and our affairs here that with the many duties you have taken up now our interests will not be at all in the way of your caring for the greater interests which have come to you in this recent election.

We are moving into our new building this week and the missionaries have come to be the first occupants of the Woodbury Building which is the name we have been permitted to attach to the new building. We expect to have patients in it by Monday next.

Hoping that you are well and with kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John A. Lichty,
Superintendent.

John A. Lichty

Weston J Johnson

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
228 McALLISTER ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

June 4th, 1927

TARIES
N T. JOHNSON
HARLES W. WILLIAMS

RECEIVED
915
Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Speer:

When I returned to San Francisco I was delighted to learn that my dear friend Mr. Kennedy of the Crocker First National Bank had been able to secure the lower for you. Wish I could have placed that in your hands so as to have saved you the trouble of going to the ticket office to secure it.

At your suggestion I have sent to Mr. Russell Carter a statement of the expenses connected with the purchase of the pullman ticket and the railroad fare from Omaha to Chicago. The amount was \$40.73.

I wish to thank you for the great spiritual blessing which came to me personally from the many addresses I had the privilege of hearing you give. I also wish to thank you for the splendid leadership that you gave our church during the sessions of the Assembly. We all realized that we were in a church gathering in the name of our Saviour Christ Jesus. God bless you and strengthen you during all the strenuous days of your service as Moderator. You have our prayers for this increased service for the Master.

Very cordially yours,

Weston J Johnson

WTJ/EL

William Pierson Merrill

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH AVENUE AND 37TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MINISTERS:
WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL
EAST 36TH STREET
S McCULLOUGH FARR
12 FIFTH AVENUE

RECEIVED

5

2. June, 1927.

Dear Robert,

My impulse was to telegraph at once on hearing of your election as moderator, for the news delighted me greatly. But I felt that a telegram is a more or less public affair, and it might give color to some report that you were "the liberal candidate". So I kept still, and am sending this note to reach you when you return.

I am very happy to know that the church is to be under your guidance this year. And I am delighted at what I have heard as to the course of events at the Assembly. I have not yet seen the report of the Special Commission of Fifteen, but am told that it is satisfactory. Certainly the other important actions of the Assembly were satisfactory. Best of all, your election and the whole course of events cannot be viewed as the victory of any party; they are rather a victory for the spirit of Christ, - which is what we want. I hope and believe this means that we have got through the era of controversial storm, and can now attend to the legitimate business of the Kingdom of God.

You are the one man for the position just now. And I thank God that you are there. May He lead us into better service of Him and of our Lord Jesus Christ than we have ever yet given.

Affectionately yours,

William P. Merrill

LUTHER B. WILSON
Chairman, Executive Committee
GEORGE A. PLIMPTON
Treasurer

WILLIAM P. MERRILL
President
HENRY A. ATKINSON
General Secretary

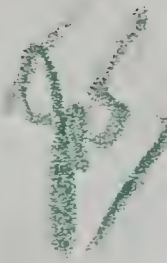
FREDERICK LYNCH
Educational Secretary
LINLEY V. GORDON
Extension Secretary
G. S. BARKER
Assistant Secretary

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Founded by Andrew Carnegie

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REV. FRANCIS E. CLARK
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REV. WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL
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DR. JOHN R. MOTT
MR. GEORGE A. PLIMPTON
REV. JOHN A. RYAN
DR. ROBERT E. SPEER
HON. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
DR. JAMES J. WALSH
BISHOP LUTHER B. WILSON

Office of the Secretary
FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

June 3, 1927

Cable Address—"ECCLEPAX, NEW YORK"
Telephone—WATKINS 5065

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have not taken the opportunity before today to tell you how gratified I am that you have been chosen the head of the forces of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. I did have part in moving a resolution at the Administrative Committee of the Federal Council congratulating you, insisting that it be sent by telegram which I hope they did. But I am greatly pleased that you are to hold this distinguished position of Moderator and I think that we all feel it augurs perhaps a more united Church during the next year than has been the custom, so to speak, in the Presbyterian Church for some time.

I congratulate both you and the Church.

With highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Frederick Lynch

First Presbyterian Church

Sixth Avenue

Pittsburgh

May 28, 1927.

MAITLAND ALEXANDER, D. D.
MINISTER

ROBERT J. GIBSON
CLERK OF SESSION
GRANITE BUILDING
SIXTH AVE. AT WOOD ST.
PHONE ATLANTIC 6317

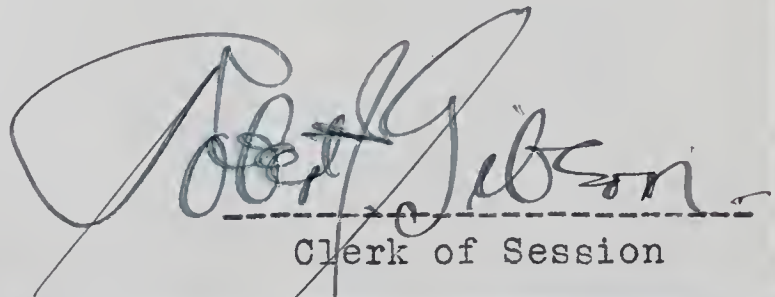
915

Dr. Robert E. Speer, ,
The General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I send you my heartiest congratula-
tions on your election as Moderator of the General
Assembly of our beloved Church. It is an honor well
deserved and your many Pittsburgh friends rejoice
in your elevation to the spiritual leadership of the
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. You will receive
a hearty welcome when you come to Pittsburgh.

With best wishes, believe me, I am,
Most cordially yours,


Clerk of Session

RJG/S

My dear Mr. Gibson,

This has been the first opportunity since the meeting
of the Assembly to write to thank you for your very kind letter
of congratulation with regard to the Moderatorship. I appreciate
your generous words more than I can say. I sincerely wished, and
wish now - that the Assembly had made some other choice, but it
seemed to be the way of duty, and I long ago learned that that is
the only road that is worth while trying to travel. I hope and
pray now, and I know that you will still, that this may be a good
year from first to last in the life of the Church, full of unity
of faith and love and of resolute purpose to have the Mind and
Spirit and Will of Christ prevail among us.

Very cordially yours,



NEAR EAST RELIEF

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

NEW YORK STATE HEADQUARTERS

151 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

JAMES L. BARTON
CHAIRMAN

JOHN H. FINLEY
VICE CHAIRMAN

CLEVELAND E. DODGE
TREASURER

CHARLES V. VICKREY
GENERAL SECRETARY

JOHN T. BIRGE
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

TELEPHONE TROY 4339

WILLIAM E. DOUGHTY
NATIONAL FIELD
ADMINISTRATOR

ARTHUR E. BESTOR
STATE CHAIRMAN

H. S. MEREDITH
DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE
ASHLAND 7480

*Send all remittances to
New York State Head-
quarters, payable to
"Near East Relief"*

NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOMS, SAVINGS BANK BUILDING

TROY, N. Y. May 27, 1927

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Moderator of Presbyterian General Assembly,
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Dr. Speer:

As an elder of thirty-eight years standing in the Presbyterian Church, it is a matter of great joy that you have been selected and selected unanimously as Moderator of our General Assembly for this year. I feel very confident that your election speaks for much needed peace within our own beloved denomination and for a greater devotion to the essential things in our relation to the great work of the Kingdom of Christ in the world.

Wishing you all success in the office to which you have been called as well as in the great work that you are constantly doing with relation to our foreign missions, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John T. Birge
John T. Birge,

*To Chamber of Commerce
Troy N.Y.*



U. L. Mackey

The Synod of New York

of the

Presbyterian Church

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: CHELSEA 4101

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STATED CLERK
REV. ROBERT H. NICHOLS, D.D.
AUBURN, N. Y.

RECEIVED

JUN - 6 1927

Dr. Speer

June 4, 1927

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I have no question whatsoever that you have accepted the moderatorship at a sacrifice, but I want to assure you that I greatly appreciate your action in the matter and feel that the church is greatly to be congratulated on having your leadership during the current year.

Please consider me as your servant in assisting to carry out any plans that you may project.

I am,

Faithfully yours,

U. L. Mackey

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99

RECORDED
915

Cressona Road
Pottsville, Pa., May 27, '27.

Mr. Robert E. Spear
156 Fifth Avenue
New York.

My dear Mr. Spear:

Let me express my pleasure at the new honor recently conferred on you.

Your friendship, addresses and books have been a constant inspiration to me during the greater part of my life. My heart goes out to you.

That we desire greater services and increased happiness for you, I need hardly add.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Richards

Meters for measuring length, liters for measuring capacity and grams for weight is the substance of the metric system

10 millimeters(mm)=1 centimeter
100 centimeters(cm) =1 meter
1000 meters(m) =1 kilometer(km)

The squares, capacity measures and weights are formed from the measures of length:
1000 cubic cm or milliliters (ml) = 1 liter
1 ml of water weighs exactly 1 gram

1000 grams (g) = 1 kilogram
1000 kilograms (kg) = 1 metric ton
Let us weigh in the metric way

MINISTER, REV. J. AMBROSE DUNKEL, D. D.
RESIDENCE 3815 NORTH DELAWARE ST.
TELEPHONE, WASHINGTON 4005

J. Ambrose Dunkel

ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER, MISS EMMA ANDERSON
RESIDENCE 1211 PARK AVENUE
TELEPHONE, CIRCLE 2396

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

CENTRAL AVENUE AND THIRTY-FOURTH STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

OFFICES
IN REAR OF CHURCH
CENTRAL AVENUE AND 34TH STREET
TELEPHONE, WASHINGTON 1128
MISS ROBERTA BRUCE, OFFICE SECRETARY

RECEIVED

May 27, 1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Moderator of the General Assembly, Los Angeles, Cal.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I want to congratulate you and extend to you my best wishes for your year in Moderatorial office. I believe conservative and liberal feel very safe with you in the chair, and I know you will do all in your power to direct our church in these perilous times, and keep us from being rent in twain, and that you will do your utmost to marshall us as a great force for righteousness; and above all I trust it will be possible for you to help save Princeton Seminary to the church, as we the alumni of old Princeton would have it remain secure and unfettered for the great conservative truth of our fathers.

Wishing you all success and happiness in your new place, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

J. Ambrose Dunkel

101
Guilford C. Babcock

GUILFORD C. BABCOCK
ROCKAWAY
NEW JERSEY

PERSONAL

June
3
1927

My dear Dr. Speer:

I returned to my office today after an extended absence and find the copy of the report of yourself and Dr. Kerr on conditions as you found them in Japan and China.

I shall be much interested in reading the report and am most appreciative of your sending it to me.

Cordially yours,

Guilford C. Babcock

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
Room 808,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

*I am profoundly grateful that
you are our Moderator.*

The Craig Ridgway & Son Company
Steam Hydraulic Machinery

RS AND CRANES,
RNEED AIR HOISTS.

PERFECTION WATER WHEEL
CASTINGS AND MACHINERY

Coatesville, Pa.

June 15, 1927

My dear Uncle:-

When I wrote you before I never had any idea they were going to make you Moderator of the General Assembly, and so I want to congratulate you. You meet my approval exactly. You are just the kind of a fellow we want to head the procession.

I note your offer to carry a flag if we would stage a chicken parade up Fifth Avenue. We will not put on this parade this year because you will have your hands full in carrying the Blue Flag of Presbyterianism up and down the U. S. A.

I might say, however, that a parade of "Chickens" up Fifth Avenue would not be anything new. I was over in New York one time and in trying to get across Fifth Avenue I found there was a parade on, and the part of the parade that was opposite me, as I came cross town, was made up entirely of "Chickens," but they were not covered with feathers.

I am glad you noted my criticism on the missionary reports. Slater is no better than the rest of them. Just to illustrate to you further what I mean, we had, the other day, Chapman of China, whom our church calls their missionary. When Chapman was here we found he lived with Feng, the so called Christian General. He had with him a photograph showing himself seated alongside of Feng and surrounded with all Feng's officers. He spoke in our church and before my Bible Class. Now just imagine what a message a man who had lived for months with Feng, and was almost as close to Feng as a brother, might have if he just knew how to put it across. He has just sent me a copy of this photograph.

You should teach your missionaries, when you have them before you in New York, how to put in the background, the hundred and one little things that seem unimportant but which are of the most tremendous importance in making up a story or a picture. Take them around to see a good moving picture and look at all the little side stuff that is put in to make up the atmosphere and to make the thing real, things that seem to have little or nothing to do with the story, and yet have everything to do with it.

If you could teach them how to do this you could stimulate missionary interest and missionary gifts many fold.

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Again congratulating you upon the honor which has come to you, believe me

As ever,

"Gaudaddy Bill"

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

REV. H. G. MENDENHALL
STATED CLERK

May 28/27

Dr Robert E. Speer
San Francisco, Cal

S

Dear Dr Speer:-

This is just a grasp of your hand and a God-bless-you as my congratulations go to you. We are all happy at 156 not only over this election but in the fact that it means peace and prosperity to the church at large. Under your wise and constructive leadership the church will go forward to better and bigger things.

With all good wishes for your administration

Sincerely yours

H. G. Mendenhall

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SECRETARY—COUNSEL
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Board of Foreign Missions Of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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150 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK CITY

CABLE ADDRESS, MISSIONS PHONE, CHELSEA 2130

95

Leonia, N.J. May 27, 1927

Dear Dr. Speer:

My heart is full of grateful joy over the action of the General Assembly — a fitting crow to your great work to the Church and the world.

May it be a harbinger of a union of heart and a united hand, not only in your own Church, but have a unifying influence upon all to sister communions.

My love — our love for daughter joins with me to you and Mrs. Speer, and the dear ones all — maybe the day is breaking.

Always yours,
E. W. Halpern

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CHURCH OFFICE
12 WEST 12TH STREET
TELEPHONE CHELSEA 1602

May 28, 1927

Yes

June 13,

Mr. Robert E. Speer, Pres.
General Assembly
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Speer,

It is my official duty and pleasure as president of the Presbyterian Union of New York, to extend the heartiest congratulations to you upon your election as Moderator. At the same time I believe I am instructed to invite you to be our guest at the annual missionary dinner of the Presbyterian Union to be held in the Hotel McAlpin on Monday evening, June 13th, at 6.30 p.m.

Now that my official duty is completed I'll speak for myself and say, three cheers. A lot of us are very happy in the thought that the church will have your leadership for the coming year.

God give you His strength and wisdom.

Yours affectionately,

Arthur Speer.

TGS/IL

HOTEL WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN

COFFEE SHOP AND DINING ROOM

H. W. KRONITZ, PROP.

PHONE 400

E. F. LEMMERHIRT, MGR.

WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN

May 27, 1927

Dr Robert E. Speer

My dear Dr Speer:

I want to congratulate
you on your election to the Moderator-
ship of the Presbyterian Church.

I know your loyal message is much
needed and will be greatly blessed.

My prayers are for you and your
testimony.

Cordially yours

A. C. Gaebelin

The Rev. A. C. Gaebelin, D.D.,
456 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

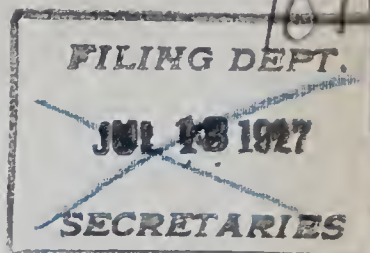
My dear Dr. Gaebelin,

This has been the first opportunity since the meeting of the Assembly to write to thank you for your very kind letter of congratulation with regard to the Moderatorship. I appreciate your generous words more than I can say. I sincerely wished, and wish now, that the Assembly had made some other choice, but it seemed to be the way of duty, and I long ago learned that that is the only road that is worth while trying to travel. I hope and pray now, and I know that you will still, that this may be a good year from first to last in the life of the Church, full of unity of faith and love, and of resolute purpose to have the Mind and Spirit and Will of Christ prevail among us.

Very cordially yours,

George Shebbin

83 High Street,
Catskill, N.Y.
June 27-27.



RECEIVED

JUN 27 1927

Dear Robert:

I wish I could tell you how much good it did me to get your lovely letter the other day, but as that is impossible, I will simply say that I reciprocate from the depths of my heart every kind word you say, and that I am more grateful to you than words can express.

I trust you will let me say this, however,-I have never had a friend for whom I have had greater admiration, nor one for whom I have had a more sincere and abiding affection than I have for you; and that you have ever given me evidences of your tender and affectionate regard, has been among the happy experiences of my life, which I have ever set a High value upon.

I have been rejoicing recently in the unprecedented honor the great Presbyterian denomination accorded you in calling you to the highest office in their gift, for it was so abundantly deserved. It was a magnificent display of confidence and love, and they did themselves honor in the manner of doing it. The honor the Federation Of Churches gave you a year ago was not greater, it seems to me, great as that was.

But Robert, I have been not a little concerned about your taking upon you this added responsibility when you seem to be carrying too heavy a load in your regular duties at the Foreign Board, which in itself is greater than one man should shoulder.

I devoutly hope and pray that you will be given strength for it all.

And I hope, too, that you will be able to take a long vacation where not a line of any kind can reach you. I am glad to know that Mrs. Speer and the "children" are located in such a beautiful and restful part of the country, and I hope you can be with them a great deal.

The summer is passing very happily with me and my little family, all of whom are keeping well, I am thankful to say.

My son, Waring, and family, are coming to us for a few days on their way to Lake George where they spend their summers, reaching us on Friday of this week. So that all who belong to me will be with us for their annual spring-time visit.

With my love to Mrs. Speer, whom I still hope to see some time again, and ~~deering~~ love and affection for you, dear Robert,

I am gratefully yours.

Uncle George.

Frank M. Silsley

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BROADWAY AT TWENTY-SIXTH STREET
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE OAKLAND 3555

REV. FRANK M. SILSLEY, D. D., PASTOR

Sep. 1, 1927

Mr. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 5th av.
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

Your letter came to me while I was absent on my vacation -- it was a real joy to me to receive it.

We are very glad that we were privileged to present the gavel, or in any way show our personal interest in you. Our church here was delighted that you were elected Moderator, and the way that you conducted the office they have taken as a personal satisfaction. My own judgment is that you made the best Moderator that we have had for years, and I know that the whole Church will feel the blessed results of your leadership this year.

It seemed to me that the entire Assembly was a real triumph of grace.

We trust that you will make a visit to the Coast during your reign as Moderator, and in behalf of our church we give you a most cordial invitation to preach for us.

With all good wishes, and assurance of prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Frank M. Silsley

Wm Crosby Ross

109 Mr.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NINTH AND STATE STREETS
BOISE, IDAHO

WM. CROSBY ROSS, MINISTER
RESIDENCE: 1319 N. SIXTEENTH ST.
MRS. HARRIET G. COPPEDGE
CHURCH SECRETARY

RECEIVED

JUN 10 1927

June 8, 1927

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
Moderator of the Presbyterian Church,
Philadelphia, Penn.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

You will not know me but it has been my great privilege to meet you at Northfield, Chicago and Eugene, Oregon, as well as hearing you in other places.

My reason in writing you is first to express the sincere good wishes to you in your new responsibility as the leader of our great church. You rightfully deserve the honor and we rejoice in the welfare of our church under your leadership. You have our prayers and cooperation.

My next reason for writing you is to allow you to see yourself as another man. I am therefore enclosing a copy of our La Grande, Oregon paper which shows a picture of yourself, unless I am greatly mistaken, and a description of another man. That you might be interested in seeing this western snap, after your return to New York from San Francisco.

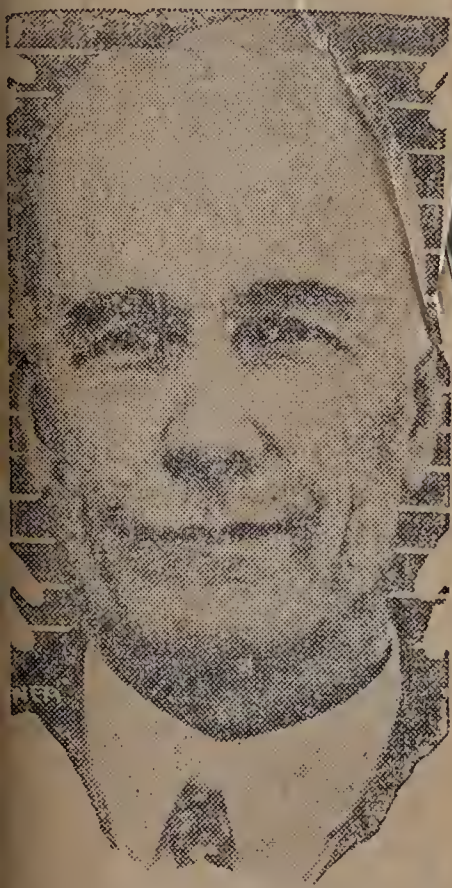
With every appreciation, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Wm Crosby Ross.

June 8th, 1927.

CHAMP COMMUTE



Dr. Ledger Wood lays claim to title of champion long distance commuter of the Pacific coast. Twice a week he travels between Stanford university, where he is professor of philosophy, to Pasadena, where he delivers lectures at the California Institute of Technology. The 425 mile journey each way is no hardship to him, because his home is in Pasadena and he sees his family each time.

GEORGE SUMMEY, D. D., LL. D.,
DAVID WORTH ROBERTS,
TH. M., B. D.,
PASTORS
GEORGE BATTALORA,
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WALTER, J. MILLER
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF DEACONS
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ECY. AND TREAS. BOARD OF DEACONS

George Summey
Third Presbyterian Church

ESPLANADE AVENUE, NEAR N. BROAD STREET

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TELEPHONE: GALVEZ 4638

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER

RECEIVED
JUL 21 1927
915

New Orleans, La.,
June 27/27.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City,

Dear Dr. Speer,

The tardiness with which I am sending you my most hearty congratulations upon your election as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U. S. A. must not be taken as an indication of any lack of interest in that happy event. I have been "on the wing" during the last three weeks and have just now settled down at home. Hence the delay.

Your Assembly did a most admirable thing when it chose you. I congratulate it no less than yourself.

With every good wish,

Most cordially yours,

George Summey

The Rev. George Summey, D.D., LL.D.,
3002 De Soto Street,
New Orleans, La.

111

My dear Dr. Summey,

I thank you from my heart for your kind letter of June 27th with its congratulations. The regard and affection which I feel for you make your congratulations double welcome.

I wish you might have been with us at our Assembly. I think that the good will and confidence which you have always felt toward our branch of the Church would have been deepened and enriched if you had been with us in San Francisco. We had a thoroughly good Assembly, full of honest and manly expression of many views but bound together with perfect unity of good will and common purpose.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter which Dr. Mudge and I are just sending out to the Church.

Very cordially yours,



WILLIAM H. THOMAS
Attorney and Counsellor at Law
SUITE 808 WASHINGTON BUILDING
TUCKER 1232
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

May 28, 1927.

Dr. Robert Speer,
Moderator of the General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I really wish that you might know how my soul was thrilled when I read in the newspapers the report of your election as Moderator of our great Church. It really does seem to me that this whole business, culminating as it has in your election, is another evidence of the hand of Providence in having preserved you for that great responsibility for just now, knowing as I do that you could have had the moderatorship on several occasions heretofore, but that on each occasion you yourself have prevented its being brought about.

I have believed personally that I could see the results of your own experience, knowledge and ability being used of God to bring about harmony in the Church. That it has been moving in that direction for some years I do not entertain the slightest doubt. I feel certain that the accomplishments of the present year will redound to the glory of God and for a greater progress in the Church than at any time for many years past.

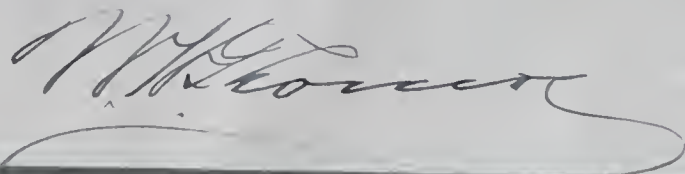
I want you to know, Dr. Speer, that ever since I have come to know you, and long before I ever met you, I have never ceased in my supplications to the Throne of Grace to pray that God might abundantly bless you in whatever you did, for I know that you would not attempt anything that you did not yourself believe would be the doing of God's will.

However, I feel that as a passenger occupying one of the staterooms in the great old

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Presbyterian Ship, that with you as its captain, regardless of possible stormy seas, the year's voyage will be safe and the ship itself more seaworthy when you turn it over to your successor than it has been probably at any time in its history; so I thank God and take courage.

May the Good Lord continue to use you mightily in His great program for the redemption of the world through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and may your light continue to shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven, is my ardent prayer for you.

Sincerely yours,



Princeton N. J.
May 27, 1942

5
Dear Robert,

Thank you for taking on the "incubus", and so rendering another great service to the Kingdom of God.

May wisdom, grace and strength be given you.

Very sincerely

Paul Martin

To Dr. Robert E. Spurr
General Assembly
San Francisco, Cal

JAMES B. BAILEY
318 COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY BLDG.
PHILADELPHIA

6/10/27.

Dear Rob,

We did not send our
congratulations to you by
wire or letter as we hoped
to see you when you got back
here however it now looks as
though we could not get to
you for some time.

Capoline and I send you our
love and our sincere congratulations
but do not work too hard
at it and make some of the
others do their share.
If you will be in this district
we would love to have you
stop with us. Love
John

115

AMERICAN SECTION

FILING DEPT.

THE

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA

JUL 28 1927

REPRESENTING THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN MISSION BOARDS WORKING IN LATIN AMERICA

25 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

SECRETARIES

Mr. Speer

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ROBERT E. SPEER, CHAIRMAN
SAMUEL G. INMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
WEBSTER E. BROWNING, EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY
PASEO COLÓN 185
BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

CABLE ADDRESS: "COOPERACION"
BUENOS AIRES

Jan

RECEIVED

JUL 21 1927

Mr. Speer

June 27th, 1927

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, N.Y.,
Estados Unidos de América.

Dear Mr. Speer,

It was with great joy that, on opening my copy of the "Presbyterian Advance" which came by the last boat, I recognized at once what passes for a photograph of yourself on the front page. I did not need to read the legend under it to know that this meant that you had been elected Moderator of the General Assembly. I want to send just a line of congratulation to you, and to the Church, which is also to be congratulated on your election. No doubt there is something in your statement that the election meant the determination to "carry on" in the matter of Foreign Mission work, but I am sure that there is also a recognition of personal merit which probably influenced the commissioners more largely than did the more abstract idea of Foreign Missions.

Mrs. Browning and I are both delighted over this election, and she would unite with me in wishing for you a blessed and successful year of administration in the affairs of our Church.

It has seemed to me that the position of Moderator has acquired greater importance in the last few years than it had twentyfive or thirty years ago. The Moderator is today, in a sense, the Pastor of the whole Presbyterian Church, and has an opportunity for influencing policies in a way that comes to no one else.

Please accept my warmest congratulations, and may God bless you during your year of special responsibility and labor.

With affection regard, as always,

Very sincerely,

W.E. Browning

NB5 11 NITE. SCRANTON PENN 28

DR ROBERT E SPEER, MODERATOR PREEBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

SANFRANCISCO CALIF.

RELIGIOUSLY HAPPY OVER YOUR BEAUTIFUL TRIUMPH GOD GIVE YOU
INCREASING VICTORIES.

WM D UPSHAW.

RECEIVED **POCONO HOTEL**

CHAS. E. TRACH
PROPRIETOR

AUG - 3 1927

Mr. Speer

Tannersville, Pa., Aug 1 1927

Rev Robert E Speer

156 Fifth Ave

Dear Dr Speer:

I have your note
of inquiry and am glad to put
you in the track of the
Congress - "The Georgia Cyclone".
He was in the Green Ridge pulpit
in May and I recall that
he had in mind to write
you. I do not know where
he is to be addressed now,
but this identification will
help you to connect.

I judge it was an
Assembly of fine spirit &
temper & I congratulate the
Church upon its wisdom in the
choice of a Moderator.

Very sincerely

Albert J Weisberg

July 29, 1927

Rev. Albert J. Weisley, D.D.
1734 Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Dr. Weisley:

When I was at the General Assembly in May I received a very nice telegram from Scranton, Pa., signed - "William D. Upshaw" I have wanted to acknowledge this but have not been sure of the sender. I do not remember a William B. Upshaw in Scranton. Do you know of any one of that name or was Congressman Upshaw from Georgia in Scranton at the end of May?

please do not go to any trouble but if you can help me to locate the Mr. Upshaw who sent this telegram, I shall be very grateful.

Very cordially yours,

September 21, 1927

The Hon. William D. Upshaw,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Upshaw,

I have been very dilatory in writing to thank you for your most kind and generous telegram which you sent from Scranton, Pa., when I was at the General Assembly in San Francisco last May. I was sure the telegram must be from you, yet I did not know how you came to be in Scranton. I have since learned that you were speaking at that time in one of our churches in Scranton. I want you to know how thoroughly I appreciated your message and what comfort and encouragement it was.

I trust that you are well, and I know how busy you are in forwarding every righteous cause.

With best wishes,

Very cordially yours,

Mr. Sp

REV. J. M. HUBBERT
918 SOUTH 55TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

August 3, 1927.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Knowing that you, like Lindbergh, were being showered and overwhelmed with congratulations, I reserved mine for a later date so I could have your "undivided attention" in saying my say!

For days before the Assembly, I was suffering uneasiness lest you might be so selfish and unwise as to give an emphatic and irrevocable refusal to let your name go before the Assembly. I was much pleased that you proved yourself to be "smarter" and more considerate of the Church's welfare than I had given you credit for! I now beg pardon for my having underestimated your brain and heart caliber!

As for "congratulations", I do not think it as much in order to extend them to you on your receiving the "honor" as it is to congratulate the Assembly and the whole Church on your nobility in bowing to the vox populi and accepting the place.

I'm persuaded that there has never been such a general and hearty "amen and amen" in all the Church's history, in the matter of the Assembly's choosing a Moderator. Hurrah for Bob and Hurrah for the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.!

As you^r ardent admirer and true lover
I subscribe myself,

Sincerely,

J. M. Hubbert.

No courtesy obligation upon you to acknowledge this: you are too busy a man: I'll excuse you.

Thomas A. Appleby

CAPITAL \$50,000.00
SURPLUS \$50,000.00

FILING DEPT!
JUL 1 1927
SECRETARIES

Mr. Speer

~~RECEIVED~~
JUN 23 1927

First National Bank

Mount Union, Pa.

T. A. APPLEBY, President
W. J. CAMPBELL, Vice President
EDWIN S. GASTER, Cashier
GEORGE W. MORGAN, Asst. Cashier
HAROLD V. SHOPE, Teller

June 23rd 1927

Dr Robert E. Speer

My Dear Sir: I want you

to know how pleased we all are that you
have been made Moderator of the General
Assembly of our Church. We are pleased
that this honor came to you unsought, and
with the good will of all. We have had, and
have had, much pleasure in your life and
work.

Some time within this Church
year you must spend an evening with
us.

Most sincerely

Thomas A. Appleby

Dr. Robert E. Speer

Page 2.

the Body of Christ and thus make a more effective instrument which He can use in the extension of His Kingdom on earth.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

W. E. Armstrong

James Endicott
249 Queen St. W.
Toronto,
Canada.
Aug 24. 27.

My dear Dr. Speer,

I have but recently come back to this country after a long absence. It is rather late, but I wish to say how glad I was to learn of your election as Moderator of your great Church. I am sure that you will make

286 East 205th St.

N.Y.

MARY BERG

JUL 21 1927

SECRETARIES

Dear Dr Speed,

I think you did well, today -
did you see the piece of mine
in the Methodist Review - at Easter-
time. As you may not have done
so - I send it to you - please return
when you have used it, as I have
only one other copy. —

I think that it covers some of the
questions that concern you as the
Moderator, or Umpire, in the big
war of thought that is now taxing
the churches. Some six months
ago I wrote to Chas. Gore, — got
a few words in reply. —

123

I am just beginning on a piece
for the Biblical Review - & will tell
you should it appear - which
may be in 3 or 6 months' time.

See ~~of~~ what you can get
from the enclosed pages - I put
in as much as I thought the
Wesley folk would use.

Yours very truly,
Fred^r M. Billings.

Mr. Frederick M. Billings
286 East 205th Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Billings:

It was a great pleasure to see you on Sunday morning
and thank you very much for your kind note and the enclosure, which I return
herewith. I appreciate sincerely your friendship and patience.

With best wishes, I am

Very cordially yours

WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES
OLD FIRST CHURCH
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

5
Monday
12 M

Dear Robert :-

A letter from my
aged and beloved father
who last week passed
his 79th milestone
contains the following
sentences.

" all the news we have
of the G. A. so far is that
Mr Robert E. Speer succeeds
Mr Thompson in the Under-
ter's Chair. May he rule
with a golden scepter and

WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES
OLD FIRST CHURCH
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

5

May 26
271

Dear Robert :-
May the loving
and living Christ give you grace
to bear this burden and if it
be a cross may it be His cross
with all His peace and joy

With sincere and confident
prayer for you every moment of these
trying days -
affectionately
William

Mr. B. Carter Millikin,
Ambler, Pa.

My dear Mr. Millikin:

Your good note enclosing your letter which missed me in some way at San Francisco has just been received. I am very much obliged for both notes and for all your kind words about the Assembly. I wish you might have been there. It was a really worthwhile meeting, I think. There are some friends who feel that there should have been some stern polemics but I think the overwhelming majority of those who were there were convinced that they all belonged together in one family of faith and love. I think this is the general sentiment of the Church also.

I trust that you and Mrs. Millikin and the children are all well.

With kind regard, I am

Very faithfully yours,

4 June 1st 1927.

My dearest Rob.

I wonder if you know how proud we all are of you! Yesterday I had a letter from Mary Nowlin, after she had stood in line at the City Hall in San Francisco to shake hands with the "new Moderators" - and to-day I have been reading some of the San Francisco newspapers which one of my friends sent down to me, knowing how interested I would be to see them - and I have been very much thrilled.

I have been thinking how the
members of our family would feel
the dear ones who are now in
our Heavenly home - if they were
with us - especially dear Mary.
With her great love for you. I am
the only one left to write to
you from the old home, and
my eyes full and my throat
aches, as I write, dear Rob.
There couldn't have been a
nicer choice made for this cruci-
cial time in the church. I
have been taking the Presbyterian
Banner since I came home from
our trip (the Continent having been
absorbed by some other paper during
our absence) and so have known

some of the difficult things confronting the
Church, which would have to be settled by
the General Assembly. God bless you, dear
Rob.

We had Charles with us on the next
end. As the holiday came on Monday, he
was able to motor down and back and
still have time for a little visit. He had
a boy with him, a fellow from New York
State, who had never been in this part
of Pennsylvania before, and he was car-
ried away with our hills and the scenery
along the William Penn and Lincoln Highways.

I shall send this letter to New York,
knowing that it will reach you some-

I have been thinking how the
members of our family would feel -
the dear ones who are now in
our Heavenly home - if they were
with us - especially dear Mary,
with her great love for you. I am
the only one left to write to
you from the old home, and
my eyes fill and my throat
aches, as I write, dear Rob.

There couldn't have been a
wiser choice made for this cru-
cial time in the church. I
have been taking the Presbyterian
Banner since we came home from
our trip (the Continent having been
absorbed by some other paper during
our absence) and so have I known

Mr. Wm. W. & Whittaker J. & Co.

856 No. 25 St.,

Lincoln, Nebr.,

May 28, 1927.

My Dear Dr. Speer,

Congratulations! We of the
Presbyterian Church in the U. S.
are most thoroughly satisfied and
pleased that you are to be the
Captain of our great church.

I presume a little farther
and wish you a personal ap-
preciation, in that I am of your
family, in a way. My father,
Walter Whittaker, youngest son of
Samuel Whittaker, is your

A. M. Cunningham

Jacksonville, Ill. 243 Prospect St.

June 6 1927.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
New York City.

RECEIVED

Dear Dr. Speer:

Mr. I can scarcely tell you how proud and thankful ^{we are} that you were called to the Moderator's Chair in the General Assembly. We feel something of the personal honor in the matter for of course in a peculiar sense you are ours - Then too when I read the way you were led to preserve the peace in the last hours of the Assembly, closing the debate and bringing about a rousing expression of confidence and faith by the repetition of the Apostles Creed, it made us feel all the more thankful -

I am sending herewith a part of the Peking & Times Times which Dr. Lewis sent me. It has a number of articles which seem to us most encouraging and hopeful. We must see great things in China yet. Sincerely yours,

A. M. Cunningham



Montreux Palace Hotel

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RECEIVED Montreux (Suisse)

MÊMES MAISONS
À MONTREUX:
HÔTEL NATIONAL
HÔTEL LORIUS

JUL 13 1927

July 2, 27.

Dear Mr. Speer,

Mrs. MacColl and I want to tell you of the joy with which we have learned of your election to the Moderatorship, and of the fine prospect which this wonderful Assembly Swiss for a year of unity and of progress in world evangelization. May the Great Head of the Church strengthen and direct you in your large responsibilities and

opportunities. The whole church is grateful to you for your leadership.

Very cordially,

Alexander MacColl

My dear Dr. MacColl,

It was a great pleasure to receive your letter with its kind message from Mrs. MacColl and yourself with regard to the General Assembly and the Moderatorship. I wish I might have escaped the latter, but I am glad if it was possible in this way to be of any service either to the Foreign Missions Cause or to the Church at large. As you will have heard it was a very good meeting of the Assembly. There were strong divergencies of view, but there was great good will and unity of spirit. I have been at many Assemblys and there were others there who had been at more, and they all felt that it was the best Assembly we had ever attended. Now we are all hoping for a good year, a year of true sincerity and true freedom.

I trust that you are having a fine summer abroad, and with warm regard, I am,

RECEIVED

AUG - 1 1927

Mr. Speer

THE WALKER CABIN
HURON MOUNTAIN CLUB
HURON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN

July 28/27

My dear Mr. Mediator

Thank you for

your courteous and kindly note concerning Assembly's invitation for next year to Mrs. Ruddleff and myself which we appreciate and accept with pleasure. We had already heard from Dr. Mudge. You are a little off as to the moderatorship date - my

service was in 1898 - 30 years ago. The whole church rejoiced in your moderatorship - faithful, strong, fraternal and spiritual, and one enriching the church in many blessed influences.

We are up here on the Lake Superior woods living simply in log cabins, lots of Christian people in our company, and I preach every Sunday night. Mrs. Ruddleff was delighted with your message and sends most affectionate remembrances

Cordially
Walker Ruddleff

Aug 20, 1927

131
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The Rev. Wallace Radcliffe, D.D., LL.D.,
1675 - 31st Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Radcliffe,

This is the first opportunity that I have had to send a personal word of warm endorsement of the invitation which Dr. Mudge, as Stated Clerk, has sent you from the General Assembly, to be present as the guest of the Assembly at the next meeting in Tulsa. It will be the twentieth anniversary of your Moderatorship, the twelfth of Dr. Van Dyke's and the twentieth of Dr. Patton's, and the Assembly hoped that all three of you could be present at the next meeting. It would be a great joy if you will all come, and it ought to mean great blessing for the years ahead.

I must find out from Dr. Mudge when he comes back whether this invitation did not include the lady who is well known to you, and with whom, as you know, I have had an affectionate friendship for many years. Certainly the Assembly will not be complete without Mrs. Radcliffe as well as yourself.

With kind regards,

Very affectionately yours,

Much Love.
From Margaret. I
am proud just
to be a sister-in-
law.

W. M. M.

W. Douglas Mackenzie

HARTFORD SEMINARY FOUNDATION
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

June 3, 1927

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing to express to you my deep and sincere congratulations - in the first place for your appointment as Moderator of the General Assembly. I need not dwell on that. All who call themselves your friends have rejoiced in this highest honor which your Church has bestowed upon you.

In the second place, let me congratulate you and your Church on the magnificent way in which the General Assembly worked through the problems so vital and important which came before it.

I am among those who never believed that the Presbyterian Church would split, as some of its own members at one time anticipated. Throughout I have relied on the saving commonsense, not to speak of the saving Spirit's guidance, which would bring them and have brought them through this difficult period.

That you have been Moderator at the very height and crisis of the whole thing must be a matter of deep satisfaction as well as humble gratitude in your own soul.

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

W. Douglas Mackenzie

WDM/k

LAW OFFICES
BRADLEY, WILLIAMS, HARPER & FARRELL
19 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO

E. D. BRADLEY
WILLIAMS
A. HARPER
J. FARRELL

FILING DEPT

JUL 21 1927

SECRETARIES

RECEIVED

JUL 13 1927

Mr. Speer

July 11, 1927

Rev. Robert E. Speer, DD,
156 - 5th Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I hurried away from San Francisco, on account of illness, as soon as my work was finished and I had no opportunity to add my voice to the hundreds of expressions of gratification which you received. I think practically the whole Church -- at least that portion of it that is in any way open to conviction -- believes that the Assembly was under the direct guidance of Providence. The Church was longing for a new spirit and I am sure that under the Providence of God you will lead the Church to find it during the coming year.

With respect to the Princeton situation, I feel that the difficulty is practically over. The situation seemed hard and unrelenting but the conferences we had at San Francisco with members of the Boards, I think, have cleared the way for co-operation. Of course, there is still the situation in the faculty but I believe, with a strong Board, that also can be adjusted.

With deepest appreciation of the service which you are rendering and with very kindest regards,

Sincerely and cordially yours,

E. D. Bradley

TEDB:AL

135
Thomas E. D. Bradley, Esq.,
Bradley, Williams, Harper & Farrell,
19 So. La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Bradley,

It was a great pleasure to get your kind letter of July 11th with its generous words with regard to the Assembly in San Francisco. Surely, God's Spirit did come down upon our gathering there and control and guide it in the most marked way! We had evidence of what that Spirit can do in strengthening and steadying and leading; holding men true to the past and, yet, opening them fearlessly to the opportunities of the future.

I earnestly hope with you that the Princeton difficulties may be met and that early in the fall the enlarged Committee may be able to take hold of its problem and find the right path of action.

With grateful appreciation of all the service that you have rendered, and with kind regard, I am,

Very cordially yours,

The Second Presbyterian Church,
Westminster Place and Taylor Avenue,
Saint Louis.

John M. MacIver,
Minister.

MYED
5
My dear Dr. Speer:

I regret that it will be impossible for me to attend the meeting on Evangelization of the Council on June Sixteenth.

I have just so recently come back, and will be leaving for the summer shortly - that it would be well nigh impossible to be away at that date.

I am sure the other members of the committee, who are all close together, can outline the possibilities of this work, without my being present. I will, of course, be glad to cooperate with ~~the~~ plan to the best of my ability.

Yours very sincerely,

John M. MacIver

P. S. We hope to see you in Saint Louis soon. It was the greatest Assembly by far of any year of my ministry, and it was due to your fine spirit, and masterful command of every situation.

Calvin C. Hays
OFFICE OF THE

Mr. Speer

Mod

Synodical Executive Synod of Pennsylvania
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

REPRESENTING
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
IN PROMOTIONAL WORK

CALVIN C. HAYS, D. D.

ROOM 304 GRANITE BUILDING
COR. SIXTH AVENUE AND WOOD STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA.

June 15th, 1927.

SENTING
MISSIONS
PENNSYLVANIA

ATLANTIC 1699
EL 4894

RECEIVED

Green

Ym

Hillsview Farms Sanitarium,
Washington, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Moderator,
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church,
Board of Foreign Missions,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Moderator:

As perhaps you have learned, I was quite ill when the Assembly was in session and this is the first opportunity I have had to join with your host of friends in congratulations and good wishes.

As you know, if some of us had had our way, you would have been in the Moderator's chair three years ago, if not sooner. But in spite of our disappointment then, it is now evident that the Lord had a better plan for you and for the Church. Certainly we need you now as never before and all at home and abroad rejoice in your leadership. May you be given strength and wisdom to do the important work which lies before you during the coming months.

With sincerest good wishes in behalf of Mrs. Hays and myself, I am,

Yours always,

Calvin C. Hays
w.

Rev. Calvin C. Hays, D.D.,
Hillsvew Farms Sanitarium,
Washington, Pa.

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My dear Dr. Hays:

It was a great pleasure to get your letter of congratulations, all the more as I feared from the report that was made at San Francisco that you were so ill that all correspondence would be impossible for a time. The General Assembly voted to send you its warm regard and the assurance of its prayer for your recovery and I trust that this word reached you. Whether it did or not, I am glad now to tell you how lovingly you were spoken of and how earnestly many friends hope and pray for your speedy restoration to full strength and full work again.

As you will perhaps have heard, we had a very good meeting of the Assembly. Many of the old timers thought it was the best Assembly they had ever attended. Certainly there was a wonderful spirit of faith and hope and love in it from the first session until the last. I wish you might have been there.

I wish they had found someone else for Moderator but I can only be grateful that even the likes of me might have served as the occasion for such a beautiful spirit of concord and good will.

With warm regard to Mrs. Hays and yourself,

LOGGING CAMP WORK
REV. DICK FERRELL
COEUR D'ALENE
PRESBYTERY

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y.

JUN 30 1927

SECRETARY

RECEIVED

JUN 24 1927

SPOKANE Wash, 6-18-27.

Robert E. Speer D.D.
156 Fifth Ave, N.Y.

My Dear Dr Speer:

I certainly was glad to get your good kind letter, and my wife and I was glad to shake your hand twice while at the Assembly. I should have stayed to the finish of the National Mission report but slipped out before the last speaker finished.

I wanted to get to you before we said good by and two or three times I watched for an opening but you were just too busy. I would liked to have gotten Dr Stone and You and I out for an early morning hike through golden gate park and to have had a little while of quiet fellowship together. I know that it would have strengthen me to climb these long trails into the camps and proclaim the gospel to these rough men.

Don't forget me dear Dr Speer at the throne of grace, And some day I hope we can meet again.

Yours In Jesus Name.

Dick & Family

DWIGHT H. DAY
1120 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Ruthie,
5
Jan 27 '27.

Yes think instead of

Thomas for your desk

we will not you to

make the money in

some small amount

for your other address
or for some you
make like to help.

Since I have known

is a review of thankfulness

my account since we

Church chose you to lead

me this year.

"He is an 'also man'"

agree to think of you

in Paul's former words

"I believe more than"

anybody than they are.

you are doing well

My best regards.
ELEPHONE ATWATER 4596
ATWATER 4596

RECEIVED Presbyterian Church

SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA

A. ALDEN PRATT
PASTOR

SEP 19 1927

Mr. Speer

September 12, 1927

Mr. Robert F. Speer, D.D.,
156 5th Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:-

At the morning service yesterday the congregation adopted by a unanimous rising vote the following resolution which it is my privilege to forward to you.

"Whereas, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Dr. Robert F. Speer, reached his 60th milestone on September 11th,

And whereas, Christians in all lands are today thanking God for the gift of this man to the world,

Be it therefore resolved that the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Santa Paula, California, send its greetings to Dr. Robert F. Speer, assuring him of our high esteem, implicit confidence and sincere love, and of our prayers that God will graciously sustain him in body and spirit to continue the great task to which He has called him."

At the evening service I took the liberty to tell what I have been able to learn of your home as a boy, school and college days, missionary travels, books etc. Stanley Hunter told me of your naming for him your 4 favorite hymns. The congregation showed their hearty approval of your choice by the way in which they sang these hymns in the service.

May I add in closing my own personal testimony, to the thousands you have received, to the debt I shall always owe you for the inspiration you have been to me since I first heard you in my boyhood days at Northfield, later in the Outgoing missionaries' conference in 1923, again in Japan in 1915 and still more recently at Winona and San Francisco Assemblies.

In all sincerity we pledge you our prayers especially this year that you may accomplish all for which God has so evidently raised you up.

Very cordially yours,

A. Alden Pratt



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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND FIELD ACTIVITIES

EASTERN DISTRICT

SYNODS OF
BALTIMORE, NEW ENGLAND, NEW JERSEY,
NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA,
WEST VIRGINIA

156 FIFTH AVENUE
- NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 5, 1927.

RECEIVED

Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D., Moderator,
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

When you were elected Moderator of the General Assembly I wrote my word of personal appreciation, mailing it to San Francisco. But for some reason or other it was never delivered to you and was returned to me. Inasmuch as it seemed a little late for bouquets I destroyed it. However, now that I am writing to you again, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the service you have been rendering the Church these many years. I want also to say that no one is happier than I am for the honor that has been deservedly conferred upon you. I rejoice also in the greater privilege that now is yours and I am sure your ministry this year will prove a great blessing to the Church.

That brings me to the reason for my present epistle.

I have just received the letter sent out over the signatures of Dr. Mudge and yourself and I must say that it has impressed me more profoundly than any other moderatorial letter I have received. It sounds that very note which the Church has needed and has longed to hear. It strikes a responsive chord in my own heart and you may count upon the utmost that is in me to second your efforts to bring about in our great Church the spiritual revival for which we pray.

I thank God for the privilege of being counted a co-worker with you in the service of our beloved Church and her great Christ.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A. B. McCormick

A. B. McCormick, Secretary,
Eastern District, General Council.

ABM:H

FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

~~RECEIVED~~

June 8, 1927

Robert Speer, D.D., L.L.D.
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer:

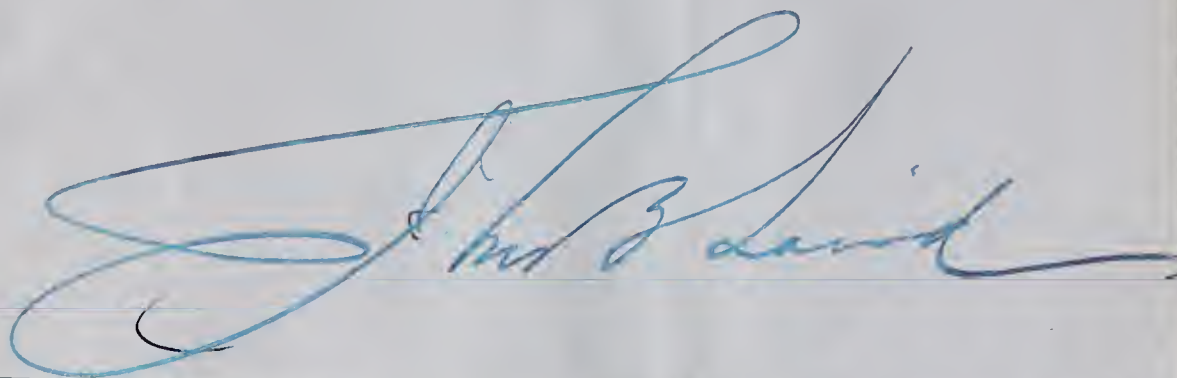
I am writing to thank you for your courtesy and consideration toward me in the conduct of the Princeton matter before the Assembly. I recognized that I had no rights before the Assembly, excepting such as were accorded me by the Assembly, and your own gracious self. You were most courteous and fair, and I thank you.

I know that you join with me in the hope that our difficulties at Princeton will be solved, and that the good old Seminary will continue in her splendid work. Of course I had hoped that the action of the Assembly might be somewhat different, but on reflection I am quite satisfied, and so far as I am personally concerned, I am ready to cooperate with the Committee in bringing about the will of the Assembly as expressed in its action; unless legal barriers may present themselves. I have no doubt however that the Committee has looked into this phase of the matter.

I had hoped that the two Members of the Committee from the Directorate might represent the majority, as the two from the Board of Trustees represent the majority of that Board. But Judge Bruce is a fair, intelligent man, and I have no criticism to make of the Committee. If we approach the subject openminded, and seek the interest of the Institution and the glory of the Master whom she serves, the issue will be satisfactory.

Again congratulating you on being chosen as the
Moderatory of our great church, and on the opportunities
for high service which this office will bring to you, and
thanking you again for your courtesies, I am

most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to read "J. M. David". The ink is a light blue color and is written on a white piece of paper. The signature is positioned below the typed text "most sincerely yours,".

156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City,
June 28, 1927.

Rev. Rockwell S. Brank, D.D.,
52 Maple Ave.,
Summit, N. J.

My dear Dr. Brank:

Ever since getting back from San Francisco I have been waiting for an opportunity to write to thank you for your service as chairman of the Committee on Synodical Records. I trust the work was not too onerous and troublesome. It was a comfort to know that it was in your hands.

We certainly have a great deal for which to thank God as we look back over the work of the Assembly. One has a new faith as he realizes how clearly and surely God will take care of things and pervade them with His Spirit if we will only trust ourselves to Him.

I have had one or two notes from Miss Owen of Morristown since the Assembly. The best I have been able to do is just to advise her to advise with you, knowing that you would give her thoroughly sympathetic counsel. Perhaps I had better enclose a copy of my note to her.

With warm regard, I am

Very cordially yours,

Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, New Jersey

JUL 13 1927
SECRETARIES

Mr. Speer

July 2, 1927.

Minister
Rockwell S. Brank
52 Maple Street

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have your letter of June 28th, which came while I was in Maine this week, and I appreciate very much the good character you gave me as an advisor in the Morristown matter. I have been always ready to help Miss Owen and her minority group and have counselled them many times, latterly, however, my advice has not been accepted. Their last move is the humble one of asking to be organized into a new church, which I fear Morris and Orange Presbytery is going to refuse to do, contrary, as I see it, to their right.

I have been wanting to write to you about the splendid way in which you conducted the Assembly, and the wonderful address you made on Foreign Missions the last morning. That was one of the best I ever heard you make. You took too much blame to yourself in the mix-up over the judicial commission. There were men who

Private

SOME IRREGULARITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1927.

1. The Court itself was irregular. Commissioners came and went during the sitting of the Assembly as a Court in violation of the rules. The Moderator had made a statement with regard to this matter and orders had been given to the ushers to allow no one to enter or depart but many changes in the membership of the Court occurred. At one point a large number of Commissioners, as large as a whole Synod, found an opening in the curtains and came in during the session, and voted. The Moderator should have prevented all this but was helpless. He could not watch all these individuals.

2. Commissioners from interested Synods voted on more than one case, not in Judicial Case No. 1 alone. *The Moderator should have prevented or disallowed this*

3. The minority dissenting opinion had not been presented to the Judicial Commission. On the other hand the member of the Commission who made it had assured the Commission that he would not present any minority report. His subsequent action was indefensible.

4. The minority dissenting opinion in its character and content was contrary to the rules. The member who presented it erred and the Moderator erred in admitting it but did not know its nature until it was read when it was too late for him to act.

5. Members of the Judicial Commission spoke on both sides of the issues in Case No. 1 as they came up, and contravened the rule forbidding discussion of the merits of the case, and the member who offered the minority opinion attempted to make motions with regard to the acceptance of his opinion and the course of procedure, though he was not a commissioner. When checked, he asked, altogether improperly, and in spite of the Moderator's remonstrances, that some commissioners should make the motions he indicated.

6. The platform was occupied, as is customary and appropriate, by the officers of the General Assembly, and by the Judicial Commission alone, with one grave exception. A visitor who was not a commissioner or a member of any Assembly committee took a place on the platform immediately behind the Commission and volunteered comments and counsel in the proceedings. (B. W. Fennell)

As I said to the Assembly, I think the errors made on both sides pretty evenly balanced and neutralized each other.

Princeton, N.J.,
May 16, 1928.

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MAY 17 1928

Dear Dr. Spéer:

I am enclosing pages 19, 20 and 21 of the May 10th issue of the "Presbyterian", in which there is an open letter by Dr. Robert Dick Wilson and a report of some of the proceedings at the last General Assembly. I am especially interested in what is said about your management of the Virgin Birth question, which, if true, shows that for the first time you have apparently been caught napping. But I have learned today that the responsibility was not all yours; in fact, the steering committee should have given you more aid on the technicalities involved.

You are of course to have an opportunity to correct in some measure the error in dealing with that very important question, which is, I understand, to receive considerable attention at the coming Session. It is quite possible that "you have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this" - to get the matter righted and the Presbyterian Church Committed to the support of belief in the doctrine as a condition of ordination in its fold.

When the Roman Catholic and all the Evangelical churches confess such belief - while the Unitarians superciliously sneer at it - there should be no "mental reservationists" admitted to the Ministry of our grand old denomination. Let the trumpets of the Presbyterian pulpits give forth no uncertain sound - lest none should care to arm themselves to the battle, when there is merely a human Christ to fight for.

Not that the Deity of Christ rests on the stories of his birth, but that if Deity can be claimed for him and defended, then it is most credible that there should have been something miraculous about his arrival on earth.

I have been one of many to ask for a re-opening of the question, and it would seem to me that you are the one, of all that will be present, to start it and guide it through.

In a previous letter I have mentioned the masterly article by Dr. Charles Augustus Briggs, on the Virgin Birth, in his book - "The Fundamental Christian Faith" (Scribner, 1913).

I am sure, that ^{this as in} in everything else you have undertaken, you will come through with a flying finish.

As from the days, now getting to be of Auld Lang Syne,

Loyally your friend,

Fr^d K. C. Willson.

An Illuminating Letter

By A COMMISSIONER TO THE LAST ASSEMBLY

[The following letter was received by a commissioner to the Tulsa Assembly as the result of a request to a friend for information concerning the issues at the coming Assembly. The friend who writes was a commissioner to the San Francisco Assembly. We print the letter as we received it, apart from some relatively small omissions and some slight editing.]

Dear Friend:

There were two issues that interested me last year, both of which are hanging over for consideration this year: the Princeton Seminary case and the New York Presbytery Virgin Birth case. Every commissioner at Tulsa will be expected to know something about these two cases.

If you have read the pamphlet sent out by Dr. Eagleson, of Washington, you have a faithful portrait of the procedure in the Virgin Birth case at the last Assembly. Dr. Eagleson presented the minority report, and when he presented it and the vote was called, his view was overwhelmingly adopted by the Assembly, first in a voice vote and then in a standing vote. It seemed clear and decisive. There was at once great agitation among the members of the Judicial Commission as they sat on the platform before us and saw this unprecedented rejection of their judgment. It had never before happened in the history of American Presbyterianism, I am told. Dr. Speer was plainly fussed, and after certain members of the Commission showed him and the Stated Clerk something in a book, Dr. Speer announced that it would now be necessary to vote on whether this whole case be considered on its merits.

Before putting the vote, Dr. Speer asked the Assembly to hear Judge Bruce, of New York, who came forward and pled with the Assembly not to re-open the case for consideration on its merits. It was technically illegal for Judge Bruce to make that speech to the Assembly, inasmuch as he was a member of the judicatory on trial; but the violation of that technicality never seemed to trouble the members of the Judicial Commission in the least. Next day Dr. Speer apologized for that blunder of letting Judge Bruce make that speech; nevertheless, on the strength largely of that speech, together with Dr. Speer's own strong appeal that we remember before voting that to re-open the case meant hours and hours of detailed procedure on the floor of the Assembly, going into the minutiae of this case, and with these considerations before us, we were called upon to vote. "All in favor of so re-opening the case for this tedious trial on the floor of the Assembly stand." "All opposed stand." The vote was close, but the decision was against so re-opening it. New York Synod's section was not entitled to vote; but they did, and were counted. Without their technically-inadmissible vote, the decision was in favor of re-opening the case.

Dr. Speer also apologized for this the next day. But on the basis of that vote, the matter was passed; Dr. Speer begged that it be passed over and forgotten; that we could not be expected to do everything perfectly; everyone makes mistakes; that he had made several for which he was sorry, and that he was not the only one who had made mistakes; and that there are times when it is better to go ahead and not get into further tangles by trying to untangle mistakes.

Well, when that vote about re-opening the case was taken, it was generally supposed that no matter how that vote terminated, the Judicial Commission's majority report had been rejected by the first vote. We supposed of course, that the second vote, which was to re-open or not to re-open the case, would not in any way invalidate the previous vote which was overwhelmingly against the adoption or acceptance of the Judicial Commission's report. But Dr. Speer put a different interpretation upon it, and when the vote not to re-open was announced, he at once, ignoring the previous vote, declared "the decision of the Judicial Commission becomes, and now is the decision of the General Assembly."

Some of us gasped. Scores of voices tried to get the attention of the chair. Eventually some one got recognition and asked, "Does that dispose of this case and is there nothing else that can be done?" Dr. Speer replied: "That disposes of it; next case, please." I had heard a good deal about steam-rollers, but that was the first time I ever felt like I had been flattened out by one of them.

You may imagine the state of mind in which many commissioners found themselves during the next twelve hours around the hotel lobbies and corridors of convention hall. It was because of the agitated state of mind and heart of many that Dr. Speer on the following morning made the apologies before referred to and asked that all be forgotten and also had the Assembly stand and repeat "the Apostle's Creed." All of which somehow resembled the spraying of rose-water over a decayed carcass that ought to have been removed.

The foregoing considerations are in the background of the dissatisfaction that has continued in the minds of many, and of course a considerable group of people feels the necessity of having that case settled and not merely dodged.

The Princeton case has proceeded thus far with fewer parliamentary blunders. I did not have a copy of the Princeton Committee's report last year until just as I was starting to the Assembly, and as we had planned several stops enroute for sight-seeing, it was impossible to get the thing thoroughly in hand before being swamped with other Assembly details. I am told that some rule of the Assembly requires all committee reports to be in the stated clerk's hands for printing and transmission to commissioners several weeks earlier than we received them.

When I got into the report, I was amazed at the bias it seemed to display. It was not an investigation report; it was apparently just a lawyer's brief against Dr. Machen. Documents and letters and excerpts were so arranged and commented upon that the total impact of the report was unmistakably prejudiced.

This whole case has of course interested me from the very first as it has most of the younger Princeton alumni. I had been present at both Columbus and Baltimore. I heard Dr. Stevenson's request for an "investigation at Princeton," and his request that "Dr. Machen's election to the chair of Apologetics be not confirmed until after the investigation." It was thought by many that it meant only a year's delay. But others of us had it straight that it was the intention to absolutely

prevent Dr. Machen's elevation at Princeton at all, and if possible to bring about his complete removal from the Seminary. Luncheons and caucus meetings were held at Baltimore by Dr. Stevenson's friends, one of which I attended, not knowing the significance of it until I got there. The determination to bring about the removal of Dr. Machen was frankly and fervently discussed, and the majority of the Board of Directors of Princeton Seminary, who include many of the most honored men in the church, were said to be entirely unfit for their position as Directors of Princeton Seminary, as evidenced by their failure to stand with the minority of the Faculty and Directors in the Machen-Erdman dispute.

I only mention those caucus meetings at Baltimore to show how that prior to the appointment of the Princeton Committee for investigation the ground was being laid for the procedure of the investigation committee when it should come into being. That investigation committee owed its very existence to Drs. Stevenson and Erdman. It may be expecting too much of human nature to presume that such a committee, so appointed, could bring in an unbiased report. At any rate, its divinity does not show up in its impartiality. I trust you have read it. If you want me to, I will send you my copy.

I think I told you when you were here the first time, about the effort of some of Dr. Machen's enemies to spread the notion quietly through the Church that Dr. Machen is a sort of a crank, a pathological case. But imagine my surprise when the President of Princeton Seminary himself came peddling this poison around. Who knows how many other people he has encouraged to believe that the real cause of Dr. Machen's failure to agree with him and Dr. Erdman is due to insanity. The contemptuous character of this charge is accentuated when we face the fact of Dr. Machen's international prestige as a scholar, and the further fact of his social power with the students, both in the class room and in the recreational life of the campus, where I am told by a student now in seminary, that Dr. Machen is a favorite second to none. In three or four presbyteries out here I have run into this slander about Dr. Machen, and I wonder how it got way out here among graduates of seminaries other than Princeton.

On the way home from the Assembly last year, one of the members of the Princeton Committee, whom I have known for some years, came and sat with me on the train, and opened the discussion of the Princeton matter. It gave me a favorable chance, without my seeking it, to learn why that report of Dr. Thompson's ever succeeded in getting the signatures of the entire committee. This member declared that he would have resigned from the committee before he would have opposed Dr. Thompson. If this represented the attitude that prevailed on the committee, then of course there was no possibility of a minority report. Apparently it was not so much a committee report as it was a Dr. Thompson report. And it also gave me a chance to see whether the committee ever found out any of the favorable side-lights on Dr. Machen's campus activities. This member was frankly surprised when I told him of such things. With such ignorance of the real Machen on the part of the committee, it is not so surprising that strangers imagine that Machen is a stern, crabbed and theological exacting individual,

(Continued on page 27)

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June 6th, 1928

Professor Frederick W. Willson,
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Professor Willson,

Your kind letter of May 16th was received just before I had to leave for the General Assembly and there was no time to acknowledge or answer it at that time. I prize so much however your friendship and confidence that I must take the liberty now of commenting very plainly and as clearly as possible on the letter from the "Presbyterian" of May 10th, which you sent me. The Commissioner who wrote that letter is lamentably ignorant of the Constitution and the law of the Church. I will try to set the matter forth accurately:

1. The case referred to was Judicial Case No. 1 before the General Assembly of 1927. On this case the Permanent Judicial Commission brought in its judgment before the General Assembly. You will find this on page 198-190 of the General Assembly's Minutes of 1927. I wish you would read this judgment: Immediately upon the presentation of the Judicial Commission's preliminary judgment any member or members of the Commission have the right to present a minority opinion. This Dr. Eagleson did. It was at this point I think that the first error of procedure entered. The Judicial Commission came to the Assembly supposing that it was to present only one judgment. Dr. Eagleson, who had dissented from this judgment, had informed the Commission that he would not present a minority opinion to the Assembly. Just as the Commission was about to enter the Assembly he informed it that he had changed his mind, and had an opinion to present. It was a question whether the Commission should consent or should ask the Assembly to postpone receiving it until it could hear the minority opinion. The Assembly was waiting for it and the Commission decided to go on and to allow Dr. Eagleson to present his opinion to the Assembly without its first having been heard by the Commission. The Chairman of the Commission was much disturbed as he took his place on the platform but he said he thought it was best in courtesy not to make any demur. I think myself that it was not proper for Dr. Eagleson after having informed the Commission that he would not present a minority opinion to change his purpose and present one when it was too late for the Commission to hear it. I think it was a mistake for the Commission to allow the opinion to be presented without first having met to consider it, and I think I was in error in allowing it under these circumstances. However, I had no technical constitutional ground on which to object. I could only have objected on grounds of broad Christian courtesy and morality, and while

I think these are adequate grounds they might not have seemed so to others. I was silent, accordingly, and allowed the minority opinion to be read.

2. I think the second error was in the content of the minority opinion, which was directly at variance with our Constitution in that it introduced matters which were not contained in the record of the case. Our Constitution specifically declares "nothing which is not contained in the record shall be taken into consideration in the higher judicatories. Furthermore the minority opinion asked the assembly to adopt courses of action directly at variance with the Constitution and with the principles of the Constitution as clearly set forth and unanimously approved by the General Assembly of 1927 itself in the Report of the Commission of Fifteen.

3. Immediately upon the reading of the judgment of the Commission and the minority report I did what our Constitution explicitly requires, namely, put the following question to the assembly: "Shall the preliminary judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission be made the final judgment of the General Assembly?" This question has to be put without debate. When it was put a majority voted in the negative. This did not make the minority report the question before the Assembly, and no vote was taken on the minority report. The writer to the "Presbyterian" shows how easy it is for a man to believe what is wholly untrue when he says that Dr. Eagleson's report "was overwhelmingly adopted by the Assembly." After the Constitution question which I put regarding the preliminary judgment the law of our Church allows only one form of immediately following question and requires that it shall be also put as follows: "Shall the General Assembly now proceed to review the preliminary judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission?" Accordingly I put this question. This question is debatable except on the merits of the case. There was some debate, to which I shall refer, and then the question was put and again the majority voted in the negative. That closed the matter. The General Assembly had voted not to accept the preliminary judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission, but it had also voted not to review that judgment. The effect of such actions is perfectly simple. (The Constitution itself providing "if the case be not reviewed by the General Assembly to which it has been reported then at the dissolving of the same the preliminary judgment of the Permanent Judicial Commission shall be held to be the final judgment of the General Assembly." I read this rule to the Assembly at the time and pointed out clearly what the effect of its action was, but the Court rose without any further action. The constitutional procedure in the case was clear and was followed absolutely according to our Book of Government.

4. In the debate on the question of review further irregularities entered. Dr. Eagleson, who was a member of the Judicial Commission

but not a member of the Assembly undertook to speak going into the merits of the case which the law forbade and even attempted to make motions, and when I stopped him from doing this over my protest he called out asking some member of the Assembly to make the motions for him. This was wholly irregular. Then some member of the Assembly asked whether the view of the Commission itself might not be expressed inasmuch as Dr. Agleson had argued for the minority opinion. I asked the Assembly whether there was any objection on the part of any one hearing from the Commission and when there was one Judge Bruce spoke of the purely constitutional aspects of the question and Dr. Harkness did the same. There is difference of opinion as to whether a Judicial Commission is a General Assembly Committee or not. If it is a committee, as some hold, then, its Chairman and other members would have a right to speak; if it is not such a committee, and I am inclined to take this view, then, its members ought not to speak. What irregularities there were however on this matter were on both sides and no member of the majority of the Judicial Commission attempted to do what Dr. Agleson did, in making motions.

5. In voting on the question of review, it has been declared that members voted who had no right to do so, particularly some from the Synod of New York. I think I should have tried to prevent this, although our Constitution lays the duty of refraining from voting when they are not entitled to do so upon the honor of the commissioners and does not make it the duty of the Moderator. I think, however, that the Moderator ought to reserve that duty. I did not do so in California in this case because I had not done so in the preceding cases for, in truth, it was not in my mind at all, and because, further, I could not have done so if I had tried. Our law requires not only that members of interested judicatories may not vote but also that no one may vote who has not been present at the case from the beginning. It requires also that members may not come and go during the sitting of the court. In San Francisco we met in an enormous hall whose entrances could not be guarded. Dr. Lodge had given the ushers specific instructions not to admit anyone after the opening of the court and as it happened I warned members not to leave. In spite of these warnings dozens of commissioners found their way in through openings in the curtains, and at least one commissioner from one of the most conservative presbyteries voted and came in in the very middle of the proceedings. The commissioners were not sitting by districts and there was no way of controlling them. My own judgment would be that whatever errors may have been committed on one side were quite fully counterbalanced by similar errors on the other.

When the assembly adjourned that day, I was deeply distressed over the proceedings and consulted at once with some of the most trustworthy men on both sides. They were agreed that the errors just about counterbalanced one another, that it had not been possible to prevent them, and that there was no way of undoing their effects. Accordingly the next morning I stated the whole matter fully to the assembly with the result that the

Assembly voted without dissent to approve the minutes of the previous day's proceedings and, then, later it voted to approve the minutes which contained this approval. As a result the whole case was finally and constitutionally settled.

The petition addressed to this General Assembly to re-open the case and many of the articles which have appeared in the "Presbyterian" have rested on misapprehensions or misstatements of facts, or on ignorance of the law of the Church. The whole matter was brought before the recent Assembly and the petition which had been largely signed was referred to the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and by that Committee the purely constitutional questions involved were referred to the Committee on Policy. The Committee on Policy brought in a report to the Assembly proving, as it seems to me incontestably from our Law and precedents, that the case was definitely and constitutionally settled by the Assembly of 1927, and the Assembly of 1928 overwhelmingly approved this view.

The doctrine of the Virgin Birth does not appear in the record of this case as it came to the General Assembly. If that doctrine were involved, then, there should have been such action in the lower judicatory as would have brought it into the record. On the record the question was clear and the General Assembly clearly decided it. As you know, I believe unequivocally in the fact of the Virgin Birth of our Lord and in the fact of His bodily Resurrection and in His miracles. I believe that He is more and greater than any of the creeds represent Him, but I do not believe that we promote the acceptance of these beliefs by our litigious processes and, certainly, not by trampling on our Constitution. We cannot hope to do good by doing wrong.

All this is just a personal explanation for you. This case is settled. The records of the General Assembly in the matter are authentic and accurate, and the decisions that were reached were constitutional and just. We should let these matters alone now and go on in right and wise ways to proclaim the great Christian facts and to prove them convincingly and persuasively to the minds and hearts of men.

With warm regard,

Your sincere friend,

Princeton, N. J.,
June 8, 1928.

Mr. Speer
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Speer:

It is very gracious and generous of you, in answering ~~to~~ my letter enclosing the criticism of your management of affairs at the General Assembly of 1927, to give me so full and complete a reply. One always wishes to know what are the strongest objections to his course that have been advanced, and I knew that the article that I sent you was probably as savage an attack upon your rulings as had been made.

I think you have gone too far in the share you have taken upon yourself, in dividing the responsibility for the errors made. From what you write me, you have evidently been more "sinned against than sinning". It is difficult, almost impossible, to observe all the technical-

ities of parliamentary procedure, under the pressure of an occasion such as that then existing. Was anxious to have you meet the allegations, which I felt sure you could, in great part if not altogether; and as you did not defend yourself at the recent Assembly, it seems as if the substance of your letter to me ought to reach public print in some way -- possibly by permission to me to give the letter to the press, or, better, by your straightening out the "Presbyterian" directly.

I needed no assurance as to the soundness of your position on the Fundamentals.

I most reluctantly signed the protest against the merger, since Dr. Stevenson is one of my best friends. I wrote him, immediately on my taking a public stand, telling him that it was on account of his too generous and irenic policy toward those who had openly criticised the Seminary's conservatism. Tolerance can be carried too far and he was leaning in that direction. His orthodoxy was unquestioned. I called the plan for the merger an ecclesiastical gerrymander, and it was intoo close imitation of secular politics.

You will be interested to know that Mr. Ernest C. Bartell, for the past year in charge of the work at Murray-Dodge, has read the same book that you read while in college -- Dr. Harris' "Self-Revelation of God" -- and will be in Union Theological Seminary next year. He has also read Allen's Biography of Phillips Brooks and other works quite out of the line of the ordinary student's reading. He was awarded, last year, the Pyne Medal for having been of the most value to Princeton of any man in the Senior Class. He was converted

from a position of practical infidelity by his course in philosophy under Dr. Bowman. Dr. Bowman has unfortunately been lost to Princeton by a call to Glasgow University. Mr. Bartell is panoplied against the cardinal errors in the teaching at Union, whose graduates seem to come out "unable to affirm or deny" too many things. He has, for one thing, read the defense of the Virgin Birth, by Dr. Charles Augustus Briggs, as well as other books in my postal-card list.

I always enjoy hearing you in public, hearing about you and hearing directly from you. Would invite, almost compel, the latter, if you were not such a busy man. May you long have the strength to carry the very heavy loads that have been laid upon you.

Most cordially yours,

Fred^{ic} C. Willson.

Professor F. M. Willson,
Princeton, N.J.

June 11, '28

My dear Professor Willson,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of June 8th. I do not think it is wise to make this matter a question of any further publicity. More than enough has already been said about it. When it came up at the last General Assembly, I spoke very clearly and plainly with regard to it, and the Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the view of the Committee on Polity that the matter had been constitutionally adjudicated by the General Assembly in San Francisco.

RECEIVED

JUL 12 1927

Mr. Speer

Stairville Va.

July 11, 1927

FILING DEP.

JUL 22 1927

SECRETARIES

[Handwritten initials]

Dear Mr. Speer: -

A matter has been on my heart ever since the assembly and I must write you about it. I feel that you failed the cause of right and truth as moderator in two particulars 1. regarding the rule about the confirmation of a professor et in a Seminary. You had a chance there to do something big and constructive for right men of Christ, but you hesitated, slammered & said that you would leave that to the assembly. That was the denial of the clear rights of a great scholar and aided the cause of the liberals. I feel much hurt that you failed to do the right thing in that. 2. You had no business to make the speech you did, denying the right to any to file a protest. Our church is not papery or czarism, and if

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You made a mistake, it was easily
needed. You could have covered the
mistake, or allowed a protest, instead of
going against it. Amendment of rules
did not amend the wrong you did
- good and conscientious men who
leave the Church. If you are going to
induce for such things, I shall never
encourage my son to go to mission field
under your dominion. That settled,
I shall advise him to remain where
he is, because I do not wish him
- work for a Board with a Secy who
brings the inalienable rights to
my member of the Assembly, and
will not stand for the rule & right when
the liberals are clamoring for or machine
help - Pardon my frankness but I am
much hurt by your failures in
these two respects. You better just
sent out, too, is futile. I wish you would
had some of the great pastoral letters
as printed in Draft of 1873 - 1886.
Yours truly, M. Linn

July 13, 1927

Mr. Benjamin M. Gemmill,
Hartsville, Pa.

Dear Dr. Gemmill:

Your letter of July 11th is just received. I do not think it would be wise or helpful for us to engage in any controversy. Let us think of each other as kindly and charitably as we can.

I would only correct your recollection of what I said at the opening of the last morning session of the Assembly. I know that it is hard to catch and carry what is said under such circumstances but I have it very clearly in mind and could accurately reproduce every word. I was careful to say distinctly that every member of the Assembly had a right to relieve his conscience or his judgment by protest or remonstrance and that it would be wrong for me to interfere in any way with the exercise of such a right. There was ground for protest on both sides. I stated why this course did not seem to me likely to achieve any positive good and suggested a positive course of action for the future. I then explicitly stated the full right of any member to present a protest which, if properly expressed in accordance with the "Book" would be received by the Assembly and entered upon its minutes with or without a reply as the Assembly might determine.

Very truly yours,

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH AVENUE AND 37TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

MAY 28 1928

Mr. Sawyer
MINISTERS:
WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL
112 EAST 36TH STREET
JAMES MCCULLOUGH FARR
412 FIFTH AVENUE

25. May, 1928.

Dear Robert,

I have just read your sermon before the Assembly, as reported in the ADVANCE. I can't help writing to say that it seems to me altogether right. I am with you all the way. I cannot find a word or a sentence which does not state and reflect my own attitude. Indeed, if I let my imagination run riot to the point of presenting me to myself as a retiring moderator of the General Assembly, I would pray God for grace to preach just such a sermon.

More and more I come to see and feel that, as Paul said, "Christ is all, and in all". What a wonder and glory it is that we can and do thus find in Him our religion. I am so glad you made use of that noble text about "the simplicity that is in (toward) Christ". It is a text that is with me all the time.

Your year of service has meant much to our church. It is a comfort to have come at last to better times, when we realize our large and full unity in Christ Jesus.

Always faithfully yours,

William P. Merrill

June 8, 1928
(Dictated June 5)

Rev. William P. Merrill,
112 East 36th Street
New York City

My dear Will:

I cannot tell how rejoiced I was on returning from the Assembly to receive your good letter of May 25th. Your words with regard to my sermon at the Assembly made my heart all warm and grateful. I believed that this was the Gospel and am so happy to have your word of reassurance and agreement.

I haven't seen a copy of the Advance and do not know how much of the sermon was omitted but I am getting some extra copies of the full sermon which was printed in Tulsa and will send you one. I had to omit a few paragraphs in preaching it, especially from the quotations from the Message of the Jerusalem Council. I trust you will not find anything in the passages which supplement the sections printed in the Advance of which you cannot also approve.

Ever affectionately yours,

George G. Barber

GRAYBAR BUILDING
NEW YORK

RECEIVED

FEB 23 1928

Mr. Speer

February 23, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I was very much impressed with your statement of "Assets and Liabilities" made during the closing hour of the meeting of the General Council just adjourned.

I wonder if it would be possible for you to have your secretary send to me during your absence a copy of the memorandum from which you read. I cannot conceive of any step being more fruitful than to place a copy of that memorandum in the hands of important pastors and laymen throughout the Church.

One cannot sit through a meeting of the General Council under your leadership without coming away with a greater love and admiration for you and the wonderfully inspiring Christian spirit which you radiated. To me personally the sitting through a session of the Council is the most helpful experience that I am privileged to enjoy.

I hope that you will thoroughly enjoy your trip to Jerusalem and it is my wish that the conference will be as fruitful and successful as you want it to be.

With sincere personal regards, I remain,

Yours friend,

George G. Barber

February 28, 1928
(Dictated February 24)

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Mr. George G. Barber
Graybar Building
New York City

My dear George:

Your very kind letter of yesterday warms one's heart and encourages one's spirit. I thought we had a very good meeting of the Council and an enlightening meeting of our Committee on Marriage and Divorce. Certainly service on this last committee has helped me to a very much closer study and clearer understanding of the New Testament teaching, and I think we got through very well with some very great problems in our Council meetings. I can see that we are coming nearer to a grapple with some of our benevolent problems. I wish a more thorough study could be made of the actual facts, both general and local so that we might know whether we have been at a standstill the last few years and just how much the different things that we are doing have contributed to this standstill, or have resulted in it through the operation of other stronger influences.

I hope to give some thought to these problems on the way across the ocean and shall try to prepare some statement on it for the budget committee.

Thank you very much for your comment on my attempted balance sheet. Nobody could make anything out of the scrap of paper on which I had jotted down the items. Mr. Barraclough took it all down but I was trying to condense it so much and so spoke absolutely extemporaneously so that I should hesitate to have his report go out. If I can revise the items this afternoon I shall do so, otherwise I think I shall ask Dr. Mudge to omit them from the minutes and send him back from Madeira, which is the first port that we touch, a revised statement.

We are sailing tomorrow at noon but I hope to be back on May 8th and shall look forward to seeing you at the Assembly if not earlier.

With warm regard,

Very affectionately yours,

RFS/B

Dictated but not read
by Dr. Speer

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Route 1. Olympia. Wa.

May 28th 1927.

Robert E. Spurr

San Francisco Co. Calif.

Dear Sir: - I see by daily papers
 you have received "honor of
 men" unlike the Lord Jesus
 in His humiliation day,
 who received "not honor
 from men" (John 5:41)
 "How can ^{my} believ
 who receive honor One

of another, and seek not
the honor that cometh from

God only."? (John 5:44)

"As Ist Am, so we, (his disciples),
in this world." (1 John 4:17)

Your glory is not good glory
(1 Corinthians 5:6)

I find No Authority

for you in the New

Testament.

I find No authority for

a Presbyterian General Assembly
in the New Testament.

You are both "disorderly"

(The true General Assembly is Zechariah 13:9 & Hebrews 12:23)

I knew of you a young
man in Princeton. You then
claimed to know your "Bad" Christ.
But you have gone back

since 1896 when I heard
you say some good words
in the Chapel of the

~~University~~ College. One morning
~~that~~ you have left the "Thou saith the Lord."

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Compromise with Time
Efficiency has killed millions,
and you too are among the
slain. Poor Green, Poor Green,
wood, Hay, Stubble, instead
of Gold, Silver, Precious Stones.
What a Sad business that for
getty, Perishing Time Place
You were not willing to follow
the "Crucified" "with out the Camp"
and in "losing" all "find"
all. When men honor Me, His
"My honor is Nothing." Yours in
Name
H. S. Killen

Mr. H. S. Killen,
Route 1,
Olympia, Wash.

July 23, 27

Dear Sir,

I received your two letter of May 28th addressed to me at San Francisco. All I can say in reply is first, that I did everything in my power to prevent my election as Moderator and, second, that I trust you will not fail to pray for our Church and for me this year, that we may be kept in the simplicity and purity and unity of the Gospel and wholly under the Mind and Will of Christ.

Very truly yours,

are much appreciated and
 I heartily thank you for
 them, coming as they did.
 - Then, just the other day
 I received a cheque and
 for the full amount! Our
 Board is kind and per-
 sistent to the beyond and
 with a heart of gratitude I ac-
 knowledg it and if I
 recommended must not be re-
 garded as stated on the
 cheque. May strength
 and wisdom be yours in
 yours is a hearty laborer.
 Very sincerely
 (Wm. F. P.) Quincy G. Graham

15-16 St. or Totten Ave.
 Pasadena, Cal.
 June 1st 1927
 Mr. Robert E. Spear, Secy.
 Bd. of Foreign Missions
 15-6 5th Ave
 New York City
 Dear Mr. Spear,
 That and for
 most - congratulations. I
 am so glad the church has
 thus honored you and I
 believe all your mission-
 ary feel it as a fairly heavy
 and heavy. The fact of
 with you as Moderator for
 great church.
 Your kind words of
 appreciation and sympathy

S. H. Chester

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER 330

S. H. CHESTER
ADVISORY SECRETARY AND EDITOR

JUN 10

915
Nashville N.C. June 9
NASHVILLE, TENN.

Mr. Spier:

I wish to Congratulate the entire Church on your election to the Moderatorship; for I know your administration will be in the interest of progress, peace and good will.

I had the pleasure of attending our Assembly with Mrs. C. as specially invited guests. Eldorado is in 20 miles of Mt. Holly, where I was born, and wh. was the fountain head of all the Presbyterianism in Southern Kansas, and from which many of the present day Eldorado ^{people} "emanated". I am hoping soon to publish a little story of the Mt. Holly Colony and what came out of it, and will see that you get a copy of it as soon as issued. Our Assembly

revolutionized our whole administration machinery, as you will see from the Church papers. (But I can see only good in what was done; especially the good of giving our Agencies direct access to the people. Every thing of that sort heretofore has had to be done "over the dead body" of our Stewardship Committee, which had, as far as it was able, ruled out every thing but quotas, per centages & budgets. In the overturn that "would be" by any way "emasculated" - as it seemed to be.

I hope to be able to attend Mr Kenneth Miller's Conference on the 27th & to see you then. Our Assembly adopted sympathetic action towards the Western Section - increased its appropriation by 50 percent as requested, and I hope making it easier for us to help European Relief.

May the Lord give you all needed grace for ye important and onerous task.
Sincerely
St. Charles

HOW TO PREACH
SO AS TO
CONVERT
NOBODY

CHARLES G. FINNEY

HOW TO PREACH SO AS TO CONVERT NOBODY

THE design of this article is to propound several rules, by a steady conformity to any one of which a man may preach so as not to convert anybody. It is generally conceded at the present day that the Holy Spirit converts souls to Christ by means of truth adapted to that end. It follows that a selfish preacher will not skillfully adapt means to convert souls to Christ, for this is not his end.

Rule 1st. Let your supreme motive be to secure your own popularity; then, of course, your preaching will be adapted to that end, and not to convert souls to Christ.

2d. Aim at pleasing, rather than at converting your hearers.

3d. Aim at securing for yourself the reputation of a beautiful writer.

4th. Let your sermons have the following characteristics:

Let them be written with a high degree of literary finish.

Let them be short, occupying in the reading not to exceed from twenty to twenty-five minutes.

Let your style be flowery, ornate, and quite above the comprehension of the common people.

Be sparing of thought, lest your sermon contain truth enough to convert a soul.

Lest your sermons should make a saving impression, announce no distinct propositions or heads, that will be remembered, to disturb the consciences of your hearers.

Make no distinct points, and take no disturbing

issues with the consciences of your hearers, lest they remember these issues, and become alarmed about their souls.

Avoid a logical division and sub-division of your subject, lest you should too thoroughly instruct your people.

Give your sermons the form and substance of a flowing, beautifully written, but never-to-be-remembered essay; so that your hearers will say, "It was a beautiful sermon," but can give no further account of it.

Avoid preaching doctrines that are offensive to the carnal mind, lest they should say of you, as they did of Christ, "This is a hard saying. Who can hear it?" and that you are injuring your influence.

Denounce sin in the abstract, but make no allusion to the sins of your present audience.

Keep the spirituality of God's holy law, by which is the knowledge of sin, out of sight, lest the sinner should see his lost condition and flee from the wrath to come.

Preach the gospel as a remedy, but conceal or ignore the fatal disease of the sinner.

Preach salvation by grace; but ignore the condemned and lost condition of the sinner, lest he should understand what you mean by grace, and feel his need of it.

Preach Christ as an infinitely amiable and good-natured being; but ignore those scathing rebukes of sinners and hypocrites which so often made His hearers tremble.

Avoid especially preaching to those who are present. Preach about sinners, and not to them. Say they, and not you, lest any one should make a personal and saving application of your subject.

Aim to make your hearers pleased with them-

selves and pleased with you, and be careful not to wound the feelings of any one.

5th. Preach no searching sermons, lest you convict and convert the worldly members of your church.

6th. Avoid awakening uncomfortable memories by reminding your hearers of their past sins.

7th. Do not make the impression that God commands your hearers now and here to obey the truth.

8th. Do not make the impression that you expect your hearers to commit themselves upon the spot and give their hearts to God.

9th. Leave the impression that they are expected to go away in their sins, and to consider the matter at their convenience.

10th. Dwell much upon their inability to obey, and leave the impression that they must wait for God to change their natures.

11th. Make no appeals to the fears of sinners; but leave the impression that they have no reason to fear.

12th. Say so little of hell that your people will infer that you do not believe in its existence.

13th. Make the impression that, if God is as good as you are, He will send no one to hell.

14th. Preach the love of God, but ignore the holiness of His love, that will by no means clear the impenitent sinner.

15th. Often present God in His parental love and relations, but ignore His governmental and legal relations to His subjects, lest the sinner should find himself condemned already and the wrath of God abiding on him.

16th. Preach God as all mercy, lest a fuller representation of His character should alarm the consciences of your hearers.

17th. Try to convert sinners to Christ without producing any uncomfortable convictions of sin.

18th. Flatter the rich, so as to repel the poor, and you will convert none of either class.

19th. Make no disagreeable allusions to the doctrines of self-denial, cross-bearing, and crucifixion to the world, lest you should convict and convert some of your church-members.

20th. Admit, either expressly or impliedly, that all men have some moral goodness in them; lest sinners should understand that they need a radical change of heart, from sin to holiness.

21st. Avoid pressing the doctrine of total moral depravity; lest you should offend, or even convict and convert, the moralist.

22d. Do not rebuke the worldly tendencies of the church, lest you should hurt their feelings, and finally convert some of them.

23d. Should any express anxiety about their souls, do not probe them by any uncomfortable allusion to their sin and ill desert; but encourage them to join the church at once, and exhort them to assume their perfect safety within the fold.

24th. Preach the love of Christ not as enlightened benevolence, that is holy, just and sin-hating; but as a sentiment, an involuntary and indiscriminating fondness.

25th. Be sure not to represent religion as a state of loving self-sacrifice for God and souls; but rather as a free and easy state of self-indulgence. By thus doing you will prevent sound conversions to Christ, and convert hearers to yourself.

26th. So select your themes and so present them as to attract and flatter the wealthy, aristocratic, self-indulgent, extravagant, pleasure-

seeking classes, and you will not convert any of them to the cross-bearing religion of Christ.

27th. Be time-serving, or you will endanger your salary; and, besides, if you speak out and are faithful, you may convert somebody.

28th. Do not preach with a divine unction, lest your preaching should make a saving impression.

29th. To avoid this, do not maintain a close walk with God, but rely upon your learning and study.

30th. Lest you should pray too much, engage in light reading and worldly amusements.

31st. That your people may not think you in earnest to save their souls, and, as a consequence, heed your preaching, encourage church-fairs, lotteries and other gambling and worldly expedients to raise money for church purposes.

32d. If you do not yourself approve of such things, make no public mention of your disapprobation, lest your church should give them up, and turn their attention to saving souls, and be saved themselves.

33d. Do not rebuke extravagance in dress, lest you should uncomfortably impress your vain and worldly church-members.

34th. Lest you should be troubled with revival scenes and labors, encourage parties, picnics, excursions, and worldly amusements, so as to divert attention from the serious work of saving souls.

35th. Ridicule solemn earnestness in pulling sinners out of the fire, and recommend, by precept and example, a jovial, fun-loving religion, and sinners will have little respect for your serious preaching.

36th. Cultivate a fastidious taste in your people, by avoiding all disagreeable allusions to the last judgment and final retribution.

37th. Treat such uncomfortable doctrines as obsolete and out of place in these days of Christian refinement.

38th. Do not commit yourself to much needed reforms, lest you should compromise your popularity and injure your influence. Or you may make some branch of outward reform a hobby, and dwell so much upon it as to divert attention from the great work of converting souls to Christ.

39th. So exhibit religion as to encourage the selfish pursuit of it. Make the impression upon sinners that their own safety and happiness is the supreme motive for being religious.

40th. Do not lay much stress upon the efficacy and necessity of prayer, lest the Holy Spirit should be poured out upon you and the congregation, and sinners should be converted.

41st. Make little or no impression upon your hearers, so that you can repeat your old sermons often without its being noticed.

42d. If your text suggest any alarming thought, pass lightly over it, and by no means dwell upon and enforce it.

43d. Avoid all illustrations, repetitions, and emphatic sentences that may compel your people to remember what you say.

44th. Avoid all heat and earnestness in your delivery, lest you make the impression that you really believe what you say.

45th. Address the imagination and not the conscience of your hearers.

46th. Make it your great aim to be personally popular with all classes of your hearers.

47th. Be tame and timid in presenting the claims of God, as would become you in presenting your own claims.

48th. Be careful not to testify from your own personal experience of the power of the gospel, lest you should produce the conviction upon your hearers that you have something which they need.

49th. See that you say nothing that will appear to any of your hearers to mean him or her, unless it be something flattering.

50th. Encourage church sociables, and attend them yourself, because they tend so strongly to levity as to compromise Christian dignity and sobriety, and thus paralyze the power of your preaching.

51st. Encourage the cultivation of the social in so many ways as to divert the attention of yourself and your church-members from the infinite guilt and danger of the unconverted among you.

52d. In those sociables talk a little about religion, but avoid any serious appeal to the heart and conscience of those who attend, lest you should discourage their attendance, always remembering that they do not go to socials to be earnestly dealt with in regard to their relations to God. In this way you will effectually so employ yourself and church-members as that your preaching will not convert anybody.

The experience of ministers who have steadily adhered to the above rules will attest the soul-destroying efficacy of such a course, and churches whose ministers have steadily conformed to any of these rules can testify that such preaching does not convert souls to Christ. If souls are converted in congregations cursed with such a ministry, it will be by other means than the preaching.

Words of Life, No. 705

Power from on High
What is it?

C. G. FINNEY

AFTER READING PLEASE GIVE TO SOMEONE

FOR ADDRESS OR NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Price of this Tract 24 cents per hundred

CHRISTIAN WORKERS UNION, PUBLISHERS,
S. G. Otis, Supt., Framingham, Mass.
Entered Framingham P. O. as second-class matter.

POWER FROM ON HIGH; WHAT IS IT?

C. G. FINNEY

The Apostles and Brethren, on the Day of Pentecost, received it. What did they exercise after that event?

They received a powerful Baptism of the Holy Ghost, a vast increase of Divine illumination. This Baptism imparted a great diversity of gifts, that were used for the accomplishment of their work. It manifestly included the following things: The power of a holy, and self-sacrificing life. (The manifestation of these must have had great influence with those to whom they proclaimed the Gospel). The power of cross-bearing life. The power of great meekness, which this Baptism enabled them everywhere to exhibit. The power of a loving enthusiasm in proclaiming the Gospel. The power of teaching. The power of a loving and living faith. The gift of tongues. An increase of power to work miracles. The gift of inspiration, or the revelation of many truths before unrecognized by them. The power of moral courage to proclaim the Gospel, and do the bidding of Christ, whatever it cost them.

In their circumstances, all these endowments were essential to their success; but neither separately nor all together did they constitute that power from on high, which

Christ promised, and which they manifestly received. That which they manifestly received as the supreme, crowning, and all-important means of success was the power to fasten SAVING IMPRESSIONS upon the minds of men. This last was doubtless the thing which they understood Christ to promise. All that I have named above were only means, which could never secure the end unless they were vitalized and made effectual by the power of God. The Apostles doubtless understood this, and, laying themselves and their all upon the altar, they besieged a Throne of Grace in the Spirit of entire consecration to their work.

They did, in fact, receive the gifts before mentioned; but supremely and principally, this power to savingly impress men. It was manifested right upon the spot. They began to address the multitude; and, wonderful to tell, three thousand were converted the same hour. But observe there was no new power manifested by them upon this occasion, save the gift of tongues. They wrought no miracle at that time and used these tongues simply as the means of making themselves understood. Let it be noted that they had not had time to exhibit any other gifts of the Spirit which have been above named. They had not at that time the advantage of exhibiting a holy life, or any of the powerful graces and gifts of the Spirit. What was said on this occasion as recorded in the Gospel, could

not have made the impression that it did had it not been uttered by them with great power and authority, making a saving impression upon all the people. Now this power was not the power of inspiration, for they only declared certain facts of their own knowledge. It was not the power of human learning and culture, for they had but little. It was not the power of human eloquence, for there appears to have been but little of it. It was God speaking in and through them. It was a power from on high—God in them making a saving impression upon those to whom they spoke. This power to savingly impress abode with and upon them. It was doubtless, the great and main thing promised by Christ, and received by the Apostles and primitive Christians. It has existed, to a greater or less extent, in the Church ever since. It is a mysterious fact often manifested in a most surprising manner. Sometimes a single sentence, a word, a gesture, or even a look will convey this power in an overcoming manner.

To the honor of God alone I will say a little of my own experience in this matter. I was powerfully converted on the morning of the 10th of October, 1821. In the evening of the same day I received overwhelming baptisms of the Holy Ghost, that went through me, as it seemed to me, body and soul. I immediately found myself endued with such power from on high that a few

words dropped here and there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion. My words seemed to fasten like barbed arrows in the souls of men. They cut like a sword. They broke the heart like a hammer. Multitudes can attest to this. Oftentimes a word dropped without my remembering it would fasten conviction, and often result in almost immediate conversion. Sometimes I would find myself, in a great measure, empty of this power. I would go and visit, and find that I made no saving impression. I would exhort and pray, with the same result. I would then set apart a day for private fasting and prayer, fearing that this power had departed from me, and would inquire anxiously after the reason of this apparent emptiness. After humbling myself, and crying out for help, the power would return upon me with all its freshness. This has been the experience of my life.

I could fill a volume with the history of my own experience and observation with respect to this power from on high. It is a fact of consciousness and of observation.

This power is a great marvel. I have many times seen people unable to endure the word. The most simple and ordinary statements would cut men off their seats like a sword, would take away their strength, and render them almost as helpless as dead men. Several times it has been true in my experience that I could not raise my voice, or say

anything in prayer or exhortation, except in the mildest manner, without overcoming them. This power seems sometimes to pervade the atmosphere of the one who is highly charged with it. Many times great numbers of persons in a community will be clothed with this power when the very atmosphere of the whole place seems to be charged with the life of God. Strangers coming into it, and passing through the place, will be instantly smitten with conviction of sin and in many instances converted to Christ. When Christians humble themselves and consecrate their all afresh to Christ, and ask for this power, they will often receive such a baptism that they will be instrumental in converting more souls in one day than in all their lifetime before. While Christians remain humble enough to retain this power, the work of conversion will go on, till whole communities and regions are converted to Christ. The same is true of the ministry.

WORD AND WORK—An Undenominational Pentecostal Monthly Magazine \$1.00 a yr.

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CHRISTIAN WORKERS UNION, Publishers,
S. G. Otis, Supt., Framingham, Mass.

Entered Framingham P. O. as second-class matter

W S. Manners

Mr. Speer

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

RECEIVED

HALEY FISKE, PRESIDENT

MEDICAL DIVISION

June 15
1927

ERNEST H. WILKES
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

PACIFIC COAST HEAD OFFICE
SIX HUNDRED STOCKTON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

DR. W. S. MANNERS,
ASSISTANT MEDICAL DIRECTORS

Dear Dr. Speer —

Just a line to tell you
that there were a raft of people
not Presbyterians, who thanked God
for your Election to the Moderatorship.
All know where you stand — and
for Whom you stand — Jesus the
Son of God but born of a
Virgin — In these evil days, when
those within the breastwork
are denying every fundamental
of the faith, it is heartening
to know that in your great
denomination there is one
in the official chair who is
absolutely loyal to God
and Christ and the Holy Spirit —
and to the inerrant

word of God: —————

"Take heed" — Isa 64 — 7 —

"Hold fast" — Rev — 2/25 — 3/3 — 3/11

"Go on" — Heb — 6 — 1 —

"Look up" — Luke — 21 — 28 —

You have a host of friends
outside your denomination,
as well as the thousands
within it, — who bless God
for your loyalty to the Lord
and the word of God —

Just received a letter from
one of the most wonderful men
that God has in India — been
there for 55 years — he writes
that his heart is broken at
the awful stuff many of the
so called Missionaries are teaching —
undoing largely the work done from
the days of Carey + Judson —

Well my prayer for you is
Numbers VI — 24 — 27 —

Your brother in Christ

W.S. Manners

You must not answer this letter — it calls for no reply —

156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York
June 28, 1927

Dr. W. S. Manners.
600 Stockton Street,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Dr. Manners:

I am very much obliged for your kind letter with its reference to our Church and to the General Assembly. No one could have been at the Assembly and not realized how solid is the loyalty of our denomination as a whole to the historic facts and to the great doctrinal convictions of our evangelical faith. It was a joy to feel the depth and strength of this loyalty, and I hope and pray that we may have a great year in our own denomination and that all the other denominations may enjoy as well that new and greater blessing of God which is waiting on our faith and obedience.

Very cordially yours,



9 Sunday noon.

Dear Emma -

Please forgive
a very shaky hand, as
I must wish - you, for
Rob. & yourself - a word
of congratulation, over
his appointment to
the head of the Presbyterian
Church - I wanted
to send you a
telegram of congratulation

given him. There is little to
tell you of myself. I still want
to be so very much -
you think it is heavy but
weeks now, since -
it makes it further -
stay at a -
no, a success -
me to a -
I do not go -
lunch on -
drive in time -
with -
carried with -
not finished -
and you imagine a -
stupid life -
that of me -
reading -
new course is



But as I talked to Ed
about it - on the
telephone - he advised
against it. Please give
Rob. my dear love &
congratulation. I know
full well he did not
care for it - but I feel
as Harry, Harry so,
that his the interest
of the Presbyterian
Church should be

ELLA POST SPEER
PIERMONT ON HUDSON
NEW YORK

5

Dearest Uncle Rob —
When the great news
came I was way down at
Aunt Bessie's — where a N.Y.
paper is a rare thing — there
is no telephone — but five
different people came driving
out to "Ketchikan" to tell me
what a great uncle I have
as if I didn't know it —

I was at a Memorial service
when Gov. Boyd unveiled
a tablet & made an address -
Some one found I was your
niece & Gov. Boyd congratulated
me for you - They drank your
health at a party with a
concoction you would approve
of - but they really had - well -
& then when I reached
Baltimore on my way home
the family were very
enthusiastic - Mr. Jussu-

ELLA POST SPEER
PIERMONT ON HUDSON
NEW YORK

the Episcopal sectn - a Canadian
with a remarkable war record -
came up to me after service &
family squeezed my hand away
about you - His wife met you but
longs to hear you speak & never
misses a chance - How true
all these remarks are his Dr
has been glowing over you all week
on my way with - Dr. Duval
was just praying for you - he

tried so - two weeks ago when I
had the pleasure of hearing
you preach - I wish I could
tell you how I feel about it
all - for you come next to
Daddy - you know - & when
you do great things - I'm
just as happy as can be -
I've so great & so wrapped
with messages that this is only
the more til I just had to
send you a loving & affectionate
hug & kiss -
Ella

June 30, 1927

Mrs. Robert Paddock
Williamstown, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Paddock:

I was delighted to receive this morning on getting back to New York after several days absence your very kind letter in behalf of Bishop Paddock and yourself. I thank you heartily for it and for all the warm friendship of the past years.

We had a wonderful meeting of our General Assembly. I wish very much that somebody else might have been chosen for the Moderatorship but things turned out very well and we had the best meeting that even the old-timers could recall.

I trust that you are having a good summer time at Williamstown. Mrs. Speer and the children are at a new home which we have bought at Lakeville, and I hope to be there with them some time this summer.

With warm regard to you both,

Very cordially yours,

Mr. Speer

Herbert & Jean Paddock

RECEIVED

WILLIAMSTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS

FILING DEPT.
JUL 1 1927
SECRETARIES

June 25 1927
My dear Mr. Speer,

Mrs. Paddock and I
have meant to send
our congratulations
on your election
as Moderator, but
this is our first oppor-
-tunity of actual getting
of a letter.
God grant you
are able to be His
Spirit on the great re-
-sponsibilities of
your Trustees and
Archbishopric.

May you understand
and sympathize with
the student. To do
as you did with those
of my time. Then you
have influence through
them and their generation.

Would that I were
strong enough to help
you win these leaders!

He did so try
having Mrs. Spear and
yourself for his bed.

If you are ever in
his vicinity, please spend
at least a night with us.
Always your friends
Robert and Pearl Adcox

